



**CONSTITUTION**

**OF THE**

**ASSOCIATION OF THE**

**UNITED STATES NAVY, INC.**

**CERTIFIED:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Cole", is written over the printed name of Christopher W. Cole.

Christopher W. Cole  
RADM, USN (Ret)  
Secretary  
12 Oct 2018

# **CONSTITUTION**

## **ARTICLE I**

### **NAME**

The name and title of this Association shall be the "Association of the United States Navy, Inc." and shall be referred to as "Association" within the Constitution.

## **ARTICLE II**

### **POLICY**

2.01 The Association of the United States Navy, Inc. shall be a nonprofit, nonpartisan, and nonsectarian organization.

2.02 The general policies of the Association shall be established by the Board of Directors.

2.03 The Association's name shall not be used in connection with party politics, personal activities or international affairs.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Association shall be:

3.01 To promote the interest of the United States Navy to the advantage of the country's welfare and security.

3.02 To support the military and naval policies of the United States Navy so that the national defense and national security are developed and strengthened through the means of an adequate naval establishment including a well-trained and readily-available Navy.

3.03 To provide an informative and professionally helpful educational program for Navy personnel and/or to potential members entering the Naval Service as commissioned officers and enlisted personnel.

3.04 To encourage and promote the interest and activity of Navy personnel in understanding and attaining the highest professional standards in the Navy.

3.05 To collect, evaluate, and disseminate information to our countrymen and members of the bodies politic relating to our nation's welfare and security.

- 3.06 To promote a deep sense of individual obligation to the Navy and its personnel.
- 3.07 To stimulate and support the naval sciences and programs and to maintain the traditions of the Naval Service.
- 3.08 To promote its vision and achieve its mission as defined in the current strategic plan.
- 3.09 To aid Sailors and Coast Guardsmen enrolled in the Navy Wounded Warrior Safe Harbor program and their families who have been materially impacted by the enrollee's condition and who are not otherwise qualified to receive aid for their specific needs.

#### **ARTICLE IV GOVERNANCE**

- 4.01 The Board of Directors shall be the governing authority for the Association and shall be responsible for carrying-out the purposes of the Association.

#### **ARTICLE V MEMBERSHIP**

- 5.01 There shall be the following classes of membership in the Association: Regular, Honorary, Meritorious Life, Complimentary, Friends of the Navy, and Affiliate.

5.01.1 **Regular Membership.** Regular Membership will be offered to any current or former uniformed service member of the United States Navy. Such membership includes the right to vote and hold office if elected.

5.01.2 **Honorary Membership.** Honorary Membership may be conferred at the discretion of the Board of Directors upon a person for meritorious service to the national defense, Navy, or the Association. Such membership is for the life of the member and does not carry the right to vote or hold office.

5.01.3 **Meritorious Life Membership.** Meritorious Life Membership may, upon application, be conferred upon members who have maintained continuous paid membership in the Association for a period of twenty (20) years and who are seventy-five (75) years of age or older. Such membership includes the right to vote and hold office if elected.

5.01.4 **Complimentary Membership.** Complimentary Membership may be offered for a period, not to exceed one year, to individuals eligible for Regular Membership. Complimentary Memberships are to be used for the sole purpose of creating interest in becoming paid Regular Members. Such membership does not carry the right to vote or hold office.

5.01.5 **Friends of the Navy Membership.** Friends of the Navy will be offered to any person not meeting the criteria for Regular Membership, Honorary Membership or Meritorious Life Membership yet is interested in supporting the United States Navy. Such membership includes the right to vote but not to hold office.

5.01.6 **Affiliate Membership.** Affiliate Membership may be offered during the period of matriculation at the U. S. Naval Academy, any Merchant Marine Academy or ROTC unit. Following such matriculation, Affiliate Members will be solicited to become Regular Members. Such membership does not carry the right to vote or hold office.

## **ARTICLE VI ORGANIZATION**

6.01 The Association shall be organized in Regions and these, in turn, in Chapters.

6.02 Regions shall be established as follows:

<b>Northwest Region</b>	Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming
<b>Southwest Region</b>	Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah
<b>Midwest Region</b>	Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Wisconsin
<b>Southeast Region</b>	Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas, North Carolina
<b>Northeast Region</b>	Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia
<b>Washington D.C. Metropolitan Region</b>	District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia and all geographical areas (OCONUS) of the world not included in any Region set forth above.

6.03 Chapters may be established in all Regions.

**ARTICLE VII  
ANNUAL MEETING**

7.01 **Time and Place.** There shall be one (1) annual meeting. Specific dates and locations shall be recommended by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and approved by the Board of Directors.

7.02 **Attendance at Sessions.** Every member in good standing on the record maintained at the National Headquarters of the Association, who is present at any regular session, shall be recognized as a delegate with the right to speak on any issue on the floor.

7.03 **Agenda.** The Agenda for the Annual Meeting shall be proposed by the CEO and approved by the Board of Directors.

**ARTICLE VIII  
REGION AND CHAPTER OFFICERS**

8.01 **Region Officers:** Region Presidents may be elected by chapters of that Region if there are at least two chapters in the region. If no Region President is elected, a Region President may be appointed by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Region Presidents report to the CEO.

8.01.1 The Region President may appoint Region Officers as required.

8.02 **Chapter Officers.** The Chapter Officers shall be those set forth in the AUSN By-Laws and such other officers as the respective Chapter By-Laws may provide. Chapter Presidents report to the Region President or CEO as circumstances dictate.

8.03 **Installation of Officers.** Region and Chapter Officers, upon being elected or appointed to office, shall be installed by administering the following oath of office:

“I solemnly promise that I will uphold the provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Association of the United States Navy; that I will abide by the decisions of the Board of Directors; and, that I will faithfully perform the duties incumbent upon me as an officer of this Association, so help me God.”

**ARTICLE IX**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

9.01 **Employment.** The Board of Directors shall have the authority to employ or discharge a Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The CEO shall have the authority to employ and discharge such personnel as may be required for the proper administration and management of the Association. The terms of employment and authority to discharge shall be as determined by the CEO.

9.02 **Secretary.** The CEO shall be an *ex officio* member of the Board of Directors and concurrently serve as the Secretary of the Board of Directors.

9.03 **Bond.** The CEO and such other staff members as the CEO may authorize to sign checks, shall furnish bond at the expense of the Association of such amount and upon such corporate surety as the Board of Directors shall direct.

9.04 **Vacancy.** In the event the CEO is temporarily unable to perform the duties, the Board of Directors may appoint an interim Chief Executive Officer.

**ARTICLE X**  
**FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS**

10.01 **Fiscal Year.** The fiscal year of the Association shall be the calendar year.

10.02 **Revenue.** The revenue of the Association shall be derived from membership dues, corporate sponsorships and contributions from members and others.

10.03 **Membership Dues:**

10.03.1 The dues shall be determined by the Board of Directors, be specified in the Operations Manual, and be payable by the member directly to National Headquarters.

10.03.2 No portion of the dues received by the Association shall be remitted to any local chapter or Region of the Association. Each local chapter or Region of the Association may bill its members for dues in such amount as may be determined by the local chapter or Region through its own membership.

10.04 **Fund-Raising Activities:**

10.04.1 Fund-raising programs shall be briefed to the Board of Directors as a part of the annual budget submitted for approval. Significant adjustments to the programs during the year, if any, require approval by the Board of Directors.

10.04.2 The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is charged with the responsibility of conducting all fund-raising activities done by or on behalf of the Association.

10.04.3 All persons engaging in fund raising for the Association shall be selected by the CEO under terms established by him or her.

10.05 **Monthly Financial Reports.** Monthly financial reports shall be shared with the Board of Directors within thirty (30) days of completion.

10.06 **Unsolicited Contributions.** Unsolicited contributions tendered on a voluntary basis are always welcome. The Association reserves the right to reject any contribution not in compliance with the Constitution and By-Laws.

10.07 **Accounts and Books:**

10.07.1 The accounts and financial records shall be maintained by the Headquarters Chief Financial Officer and reviewed by the Treasurer.

10.07.2 A report of the finances of the Association shall be posted and orally made by the Treasurer of the Association at each annual meeting and at each regular meeting of the Board of Directors.

10.07.3 The books of the Association shall be audited bi-annually by a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) selected by the Board of Directors. Reviews shall be made in the interim years by a CPA.

10.08 **Fiduciary Trust - Conflict of Interest.** Any individual serving as an elected or appointed Board member, regional officer, chapter officer, committee member, employee, or agent who engages in activities or interests which taint the image of propriety or give the appearance of being counter to the goals and objectives of the Association shall incur a conflict of interest which will be considered a violation of the fiduciary trust of the office. Also, any of the above individuals who personally benefit from bringing the Association into conflict or competition with the best interests of the Association shall incur a conflict of interest which will be considered a violation of the fiduciary trust of the office. Such activity shall result in the immediate suspension of the individual from the position held, pending final action by the Board of Directors or the CEO. Final determination concerning any paid employee or agent shall be made by the authorizing person or body.

## **ARTICLE XI AMENDMENTS**

11.01 This Constitution may be amended at any meeting of the Board of Directors by a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote.

11.01.1 The proposed changes must be distributed to the membership and the Board of Directors thirty (30) days prior to voting and must include the existing language and the new language inserted in its proper place in the text. Letters or words to be deleted from the existing text will have a line through them (e.g. ~~delete~~). Letters or words being added will be underlined (e.g. underlined). Immediately below the text, a brief statement of explanation for the need of this change and what it does should appear preceded by the word RATIONALE.

11.01.2 Members may submit proposed changes and comments to AUSN Headquarters, 3601 Eisenhower Ave., Suite 110, Alexandria, VA 22304, or by FAX (703) 683-3647, or by E-mail [info@ausn.org](mailto:info@ausn.org). However, minor changes of language, correction of manifest errors, or removal of ambiguities, not affecting substance, may be approved by the Board of Directors.

## **ARTICLE XII SEAL AND INSIGNIA**

The Association has adopted a distinctive seal that is described below:

12.01 **Seal or Logo.** The Association of the United States Navy Seal is oval in shape, consisting of the letters “*ausn*” and the words “Association of the United States Navy.” The seal shall maintain a blue and gold color theme.

## **ARTICLE XIII NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**

The National Headquarters of the Association shall be in the metropolitan area of Washington, D.C.

## **ARTICLE XIV RATIFICATION**

All acts performed under any former Constitution are hereby ratified and confirmed.

## **ARTICLE XV REVOCATION**

All prior Constitutions and amendments thereto are revoked and shall become null and void immediately upon the adoption of this Constitution.