2017
Convention Rules
(Proposed)
Greetings to you, the delegates of VVA’s 18th National Convention.

You will determine the rules and the agenda for the Convention. Included in every delegate’s packet is a set of proposed rules. The chair of the Rules Committee will review these proposed rules during a full session of the delegates. The rules are subject to debate and modification. Once approved, they will remain in effect throughout the Convention, unless amended by the delegates.

Here is a general overview of the Proposed Rules for the 2017 Convention:

The chair of the Resolutions Committee shall report the work of that committee and shall describe the process for hearings to be conducted on each proposed resolution. This shall be done at a general session of the Convention prior to any committee hearings.

Following the committee hearings, each proposed resolution shall be read at a general session of the Convention, moved by the chair of the Resolutions Committee, and seconded by a member of that committee. It shall then be put before the Convention for debate and (upon a motion to close debate) for a vote.

Resolutions shall require the affirmative vote of a majority of the delegates present and voting for passage. In the event that a proposed resolution is not adopted after its first presentation, the proposed resolution shall, upon a majority vote of delegates present and voting, be referred back to the appropriate committee for further review and modification. Those resolutions then will be presented a second time at a general session of the Convention and shall be subject to full debate, amendment, and vote by the delegates.

Following the second reading of, and action upon, the proposed resolutions reported out of committee, delegates may be permitted, upon a majority vote of delegates present and voting, to offer and move proposed resolutions that were not reported out of committee. Such floor resolutions shall be in writing in the form prescribed for submission of resolutions prior to the Convention. The presiding officer shall set a time for consideration of such resolutions.

---Joe A. Jennings III, Chair, Convention Rules
The proposed rules, if accepted, will govern the credentialing; what constitutes a quorum; seating; committee reports; resolutions; debate; voting; decorum; and *Robert’s Rules of Order, 11th Edition*, for VVA’s 18th National Convention, to be held August 8-12, 2017, in New Orleans, Louisiana. All delegates should familiarize themselves with these rules, which are in the main the same as those employed in previous conventions, to help insure a smooth-running and productive convention.

1. CREDENTIALS

   A. The Credentials Committee shall provide identification for Delegates and Alternates upon registration with the Credentials Committee.

   B. Identification badges shall not be transferable.

   C. Such identification must be worn during all meetings of the convention.

   D. A member registered as an Alternate may become a Delegate only after proper clearance with the Credentials Committee. No Alternate or other person may substitute for a Delegate who remains registered.

2. QUORUM

   A majority of the credentialed delegates shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for the conduct of business.

3. SEATING

   There shall be a designated seating area for Delegates. Non-delegates and guests shall be seated in a designated observers’ area.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND RESOLUTIONS

   A. The Chair of the Constitution Committee shall report the work of that committee and shall provide the delegates with an overview of the process for hearings to be conducted on each proposed amendment to the bylaws as written.
The report of the Constitution Committee shall be subject to a hearing, to be held before a reading at a general session of the convention.

Following the Constitution Committee’s hearing, each proposed amendment shall be read at a general session of the convention, and moved by the Chair of the Constitution Committee, and deemed to be seconded by a member of that Committee, and shall then be put before the convention for debate, and upon a motion to close debate, for a vote on the proposed amendment. Amendments to the bylaws shall require the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the delegates present and voting for passage. Any amendments referred back to the committee shall be subject to further review and appropriate action. Those proposed amendments will then be presented a second time at a general session of the convention and shall be subject to full debate, amendment, and vote by the delegates, the same required vote margin of two-thirds of the delegates present and voting for passage.

B. The Chair of the Resolutions Committee shall report the work of that committee and shall provide the delegates with an overview of the process for hearings to be conducted on each proposed resolution written.

C. Following the committee hearings, all proposed resolutions shall then be subject to a reading at the general session of the convention and shall be subject to full debate, amendment, and vote by the delegates. Resolutions shall require the affirmative vote of a majority of the delegates present and voting for passage.

Following the second reading of, and action upon, the proposed resolutions and amendments reported out of committee, delegates may be permitted, upon a majority vote of delegates present and voting, to offer and move proposed resolutions and amendments that were not reported out of committees. The Presiding Officer shall set a time for consideration of such motions.

5. DEBATE

A. Debate shall be limited to two minutes for each speaker.

B. The Timekeeper will signal the expiration of the allotted time.

C. Debate on any issue shall not exceed twenty minutes, unless such time is extended by the consent of the voting body.

D. No Delegate may speak more than twice on the same issue.
E. No Delegate may speak a second time on an issue until all who desire to speak have had an opportunity to do so, except by the consent of the voting body.

F. Points of inquiry shall be in the form of a question. Points of Information shall be in the form of a statement. After the question or statement is stated, the delegate shall be seated.

G. Microphones shall be designated for speaking in favor (PRO) and speaking against (CON). Points of order may be addressed at either microphone.

H. A Delegate desiring to speak shall stand at a microphone designated for that purpose.

I. Once recognized by the Presiding Officer, the Delegate must state his or her name, Chapter number and location, or State Council before speaking.

6. VOTING

A. Except on roll call votes, all voting on reports, amendments, and resolutions shall be by voice or by a show of hands, but the Presiding Officer may call for a standing vote when in doubt.

B. The VVA Constitution, Article 1, National Provisions, Section 6, National Conventions, G, to wit, A secret ballot shall not be permitted upon any floor vote called for at the National Convention. Casting of votes for Officers and Directors shall be in a manner adopted by the Delegates with the recommendations of the Elections Committee.

Therefore, the Election Committee moves the following rules be adopted for the casting of votes for the election of Officers and Directors at the 2017 National Convention:

1. Elections shall be by secret ballot.
2. For the election of officers, in the event that no candidate in any particular election race receives a majority vote, a run-off election shall be held between the two candidates who have received the most votes.
3. Credentialed delegates MUST present their Voter Registration Card to be allowed to vote.
7. DECORUM

A. All meetings shall be held on time.

B. During the Convention and Committee Meetings, members shall refrain from speaking until recognized by the Presiding Officer or Committee Chair and entitled to the floor.

C. The solicitation of funds, also known as “PASSING THE HAT,” shall not be permitted in the Main Hall of the Convention at any time.

D. ELECTION CAMPAIGN LITERATURE shall not be distributed in the Main Hall of the Convention at any time.

E. Announcements of concern to the assembly shall be made only by the Presiding Officer or his/her designee from the platform.

F. NO SMOKING, electronic or otherwise, shall be permitted within any meetings of the Convention.

G. Electronic devices, such as cell phones, computers, and alarms must be turned off or placed on Silent mode, or placed in Vibrate mode, if carried onto the Convention floor and during the meetings of the Convention or Committees.

H. All firearms (loaded or unloaded) are absolutely prohibited within all formal and informal meetings, social functions, assemblies, and gatherings of the Convention. Regardless of whether a person with a firearm has a permit or a license for the firearm, the Convention is a FIREARMS-FREE ZONE for all attendees.

8. ROBERT’S RULES OF ORDER, 11th Edition


Respectfully Submitted,
Joseph A. Jennings III
Chair, Convention Rules Committee