

# **Bylaws**

## **Third Florida Company B**

### ***St. Augustine Blues***

#### **Objectives and Goals**

The Third Florida, Company B was established as a historic reenactment military unit of the American Civil War period. Our objective is to accurately portray the lifestyle, drill, uniforms, equipment and overall bearing of Confederate infantrymen during the period from 1861 to 1865. This portrayal shall be done in a manner that is informative, educational and enjoyable to both the participant and the public

#### **Membership**

1. The membership of the Third Florida, Company B is open to all races, creeds, national origins, or either sex.
2. All member's portrayals must be consistent with life in the United States during the period 1860-1865.
3. Membership of the Third Florida is open to everyone, provided they meet and agree to the requirements set forth in these By-Laws. Members must be at least 12 years old to join the group, and 14 years old to carry a weapon on the field. Both must have a "Minor Permission Form" signed by their parents or legal guardians. Minors under the age of 16 must have at least one parent or guardian present at any event that they might participate in.
4. New Recruits are not afforded membership privileges until objectives set forth in the bylaws are met.
5. Third Florida, Company B members may extend, at any time, full membership to any individual who has met all the required objectives, by a simple majority vote of the membership and consent of the company commander.

6. Membership in the Third Florida, Company B may be revoked by a simple majority vote (51% of the membership in attendance provided there is a quorum) of the membership against any member who is accused of violating the Code Of Conduct. Two members and an elected officer or NCO must agree to press charges for this vote to take place.
  
7. Officers and Non Commissioned Officers, living in the State of Florida, who do not attend at least **50%** of the instate events during the course of a calendar year, shall be deemed to have terminated his or her rank, and return to the membership as a private. This does not apply for military service or extenuating circumstances pre-approved by the Commanding Officer.
  
8. Enlisted members, living in the state of Florida, who do not attend at least 10% of the events within the state, shall be placed on the in-active list.
  
9. Any member who does not pay his or hers dues, by the Brooksville event in January will be dropped from the membership rolls.
  
10. Each member shall receive a copy of the Rules and Regulations, including the bylaws, safety regulations and uniform requirements, and sign a statement indicating that the member has read the rules and regulations, safety regulations, and uniform requirements and agreed to by governed by them.

## **Rights of Membership**

1. Vote at all business meetings of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Florida, Company B.
2. Hold any position within the Third Florida, Company B consistent with their historical portrayal and the obligations of the position.
3. To serve as a member of the Third Florida, Company B in manner consistent with their historical portrayal, at any and all events where the Third Florida, Company B is in attendance.
4. Receive all notifications of any events, activities, drills, or functions that the Third Florida, Company B will attend and schedule of events for all formations, drills and battles when possible.
5. Receive a monthly or bi-monthly newsletter, Roster, and Certificate of Enlistment in the Third Florida, Company B.

## **Obligations of Membership and Code of Conduct**

1. To conduct themselves in a manner which promotes the harmonious conduct of the organization.

## **Authentic Camp**

- a. There shall be no drinking on the company street. No member shall become intoxicated, abusive or behave in a disorderly or belligerent manner.
- b. Members arriving at any event shall make their presence known to the company commander or ranking NCO in the absence of the Commanding Officer.
- c. Members (when in attendance at any event) shall attend all posted drills and formations, unless they have been excused by an officer or senior NCO.
- d. The company officers or their designated staff shall maintain the military decorum of the company street.

## **Modern Camp**

- a. There shall be no excessive drinking of alcohol at any time. No member shall become intoxicated, abusive or behave in a disorderly or belligerent manner.
- b. Member (when in attendance at an event) shall attend all posted drills and formations unless they have been excused by an officer or Senior NCO.

- c. Members with generators should try to keep them away from members who are in tents and fly's. Try to keep generator noise at a minimum and directed away from tenters. All event rules concerning generators should be strictly followed. Quiet time should be observed at midnight.
  - d. Parents with small children should be encouraged to keep them a safe distance from the campfire at all times.
  - e. Parents should also keep small children away from campfire activities during the adult hours, which are after 9PM.
- 2. To respect the person and property of all members of the Third Florida, Company B and all members of the reenactment community.
  - a. Third Florida, Company B members shall respect all members and organizations involved in reenacting. No Third Florida Member shall say any remark, before the public, disrespectful of another group or individual outside of historical context.
- 3. To obey the laws of the United States, its political subdivisions, and those laws and regulations required by event sponsors and organizers.
- 4. To obey all safety regulations of the FTHA at any and all events.

5. To adhere to the “Regulations of the Army of the Confederate States of America” and the “Articles of War” except where this conflicts with the first 4 articles of The Code of Conduct.
  - a. To conduct themselves in camp, in formation, and in battle in a military manner.
  - b. To render proper military honors to all Officers and flags of the United states (weather a reenactor or current active service), Confederate States, or any other nation, regardless of the flag or the person wearing the uniform.
  - c. To present an appearance that does honor to the memory of the men who served in the Armies of the United States and Confederate States.
6. To present an accurate portrayal of life in the American Civil War while attending events and present in the authentic camp area or on the battlefield.
7. To promote historical accuracy the following rules must be adhered to
  - a. No non-period items may be visible at any time within the company street.
  - b. No non-period activities on the company street during living history
  - c. No non-combatants under arms.

- d. No non-functionaries allowed on the company street after retreat.
  - e. We are depicting a military unit and as such all members must obey any lawful and reasonable order given by a superior officer or NCO.
8. Any person who violates the Code of Conduct may be dismissed.

## **Business Meetings**

1. The Third Florida, Company B will conduct a least one business meeting during each calendar year.
2. A business meeting will be held, every other year, at the last event before the summer break to nominate and elect members for elected positions. Those unable to attend the event, should notify the Commanding Officer, or the Quartermaster. For those who cannot attend the event, all nominations shall be sent, to the Company Quartermaster, via the Internet or the United States Postal Service, at least two weeks prior to the event. The Quartermaster shall send out a voting ballot, at least one (1) week prior to the said event.
3. All decisions voted at the business meetings will require a simple majority. (Except as otherwise noted)

## **Elected Officers**

The Third Florida, Company B will elect a Commanding Officer and a Quartermaster Sgt. The Third Florida, Company B will also elect those officers and NCOs needed to fill the rank/ratio requirements. IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN RANK, ALL NCO'S AND OFFICERS, WHO LIVE IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA, MUST ATTEND AT LEAST 50% OF ALL THE FLORIDA EVENTS, except for military service or extenuating circumstances.

1. The Commanding Officer is responsible for all decisions required between business meetings.
2. The Commanding Officer, or ranking NCO, will chair all business Meetings.
3. The Quartermaster Sgt. shall be responsible for the mailing of all event information and a monthly or by-monthly newsletter. The name, structure, content, and format of the newsletter shall be at the discretion of the Commanding Officer.  
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4. In the absence of an elected Commanding Officer, the highest ranking officer or NCO will assume those responsibilities.
5. The Commanding Officer may appoint Officers and NCOs needed to fill the rank structure between elections.

6. The Commanding Officer or any officer may be removed from their position by a 2/3 majority vote of all the members. This vote may be conducted at any business meeting.
  
7. The Quartermaster shall be responsible for maintaining the funds of the company, accounting for all expenditures, and collections of all revenues. No monies will be distributed by the Quartermaster without the permission and approval of the Commanding Officer.
  
8. Beginning with the 2002-2003 season, \$ 20.00 yearly dues will be collected from all members and recruits for the purpose of procuring supplies, postage, and purchases approved by the Commanding Officer. Failure to pay dues by the January, Brooksville event will result in loss of membership privileges.
  
9. When family members are under the age of 18, only one household member is required to pay dues.
  
10. Every new member, shall be required to sign a General Release of Liability and new members under the age of 18, shall be required to fill out, and have signed by a parent or legal guardian, a "Minor Permission Form" Persons under the age of 16, are required to have at least one parent or guardian present at any reenactment that they may participate in.

## **APPENDIX A**

### **Required Equipment After 6 months**

#### 1. Clothing

Military Shell Jacket, Sack Coat or Frock Coat

Grey with light blue trim or Jean Cloth with Dark Blue Trim preferred

Civilian or military shirt

Civilian or military trousers

Canvas suspenders

Brogans

Wool socks

Civilian or military hat

#### 2. Accouterments

Belt and buckle

Cartridge Box

Cap Pouch

Haversack

Canteen

Poncho or Gum blanket

Wool blanket or period style quilt

3. Weapon

Three band rifled musket (percussion)

Triangular Bayonet with Scabbard

Sword and period pistol for Officers and Senior NCOs Only

4. Period Eyewear or contacts required, if needed.

5. All recruits are required to Learn and Demonstrate Hardee's School of the Soldier.