Bi-Laws or Guidelines of the 105th Ohio Volunteer Infantry

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I. The Ohio Volunteer Infantry (Here in after the O.V.I.) is the organized for the purpose of honoring the men of original O.V.I. through authentic reenacting and living history demonstrations. Additionally, the unit is organized to provide an opportunity and framework for its members to deepen their understanding of the Civil War. Finally, the O.V.I. is organized to provide an accurate picture if events and conditions of the time we are portraying. To do any less than our best is to do a great dis-service to ourselves, those who observe us, and those we represent.

II. The Ohio Volunteer Infantry will have as its sole impression, the portrayal of a typical company of infantry of the period 1861-1865.

III. Establishment of the O.V.I. Bi-laws, as well as any additions, deletion, or changes to these Bi-laws must be ratified by a majority vote of the total unit's membership with two readings.

IV. Each member is free to pursue any other Civil War related activity, membership with any other club, or to perform any other desired impression at their discretion. However it is required that member portraying the O.V.I. at any event, perform in accordance with these guidelines. Responsibility for enforcing the O.V.I.'s guidelines will belong to the elected leaders of the unit as described in later text. Failure by an individual to comply with the agreed Bi-Laws will constitute just cause for ejection from the unit.

V. Attendance is never mandatory for any event. HOWEVER, as one of the primary purposes of any reenacting unit is to participate as a GROUPE. it is hoped that member will make their best efforts to attend O.V.I. events, particularly those agreed to be maximum
effort. To remain an active MEMBER, one must attend one O.V.I. event and two business meetings per year.

VI. Family attendance and participation is high encouraged. Civilian impressions by either member or their families are welcome.

VII. The O.V.I. is a non-profit organization. Misuse of its name and/of members to achieve personal financial gain is strictly prohibited. Such misuse is to be considered just cause for dismissal from the O.V.I.

VIII. The organization shall have two methods of FUNCTION, which are administrative and command. These two methods of function shall be further explained in later text.

IX. It is required that all members complete on full year with the O.V.I. before seeking and elected position.

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Probationary Period

I. New Members will have a 6 Month Probationary Period after which the voting body must vote to accept new members as permanent.

II. Dues will be payable upon acceptance to the OVI.

III. During the probationary period prospective members will have no voting rights.

IV. During the probationary period prospective members must pay insurance in order to participate in events.

V. During the probationary period prospective members must pay their own registration fees for events unless approved by voting body.

VI. Equipment usage will be subject to voting body permission.

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REQUIREMENTS

A. ALL MEMBERS SHALL COMPLETE AND SIGN AN APPLICATION AND RELEASE FORM.

B. PAYMENT OF ANNUAL DUES REQUIREMENT AS ESTABLISHED BY THE MEMBER SHIP. CURRENT MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE TWENTY-FIVE PER FISCAL YEAR (JANUARY THRU DECEMBER). DUSE FOR THE CURRENT YEAR ARE PAYABLE PRIOR TO JANUARY OF THAT YEAR.

C. ATTENDANCE OF AT LEAST ONE O.V.I. EVENT AND TWO BUSINESS MEETINGS PER YEAR.

D. ALL MEMBERS DESIRING TO PARTICIPATE WITH O.V.I. MUST BE EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER. PERSONS BETWEEN THE AGES OF SIXTEEN AND EIGHTEEN MAY PARTICIPATE, BUT MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN. MEMBER UNDER THE AGE OF SIXTEEN MAY NOT CARRY ARMS.

E. DO TO THE AUTHENTIC PORTRAYAL OF THE OHIO VOLUNTEER INFANTRY, WOMEN, PERSONS OF COLOR, AND CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF TEN ARE LIMITED TO A CIVILIAN CAPACITY OF THE PERIOD (1861 THRU 1865).

F. NEW MEMBERS HAVE A PERIOD OF UP TO TWO FULL YEARS TO ACQUIRE A FULL UNIFORM AND ACCOUTERMENTS AS DESCRIBED IN LATER TEXT.

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I. The governing body of the O.V.I. is the membership at large (as defined under "membership"). All decisions affecting the O.V.I., such as event SELECTION, Bi-Laws/Guideline changes, ect. will be made by a democratic consensus, with each member entitled to an equal vote.

II. Changes in the unit Bi-Laws or any other business matter can be called for vote at any scheduled general business meetings, including those meetings held at an event.

III. The elected leadership of the O.V.I. will consist of a board of directors (Board), Made up of three officials. Commander, Vice-Commander, AND Administrator.

A. These three officials will serve for a one year term.

B. Nominations for these positions will take place at the last business meeting of the year. A schedule for submitting voters will be established at the same meeting.

C. The duties of these officials are as follows:

1. Commander- shall conduct regular business meetings with membership (preferably on a monthly basis at places and times determined by the membership). He shall appoint committee chairmen as needed to conduct business of the organization.
2. Vice-Commander- Shall assume the duties of the secretary/treasure which are as follows:
    a) Conduct meetings of the MEMBERSHIP IN the absence of the commander.
    b) To be responsible for the recording of the minutes of the meetings and all written and verbal communications of the organization.
    c) He shall have the monetary responsibility of the O.V.I. and collect and disperse these funds as disperse by the membership
    d) He shall keep an accurate ledger at all times and give a full report of the organization's finances at each meeting.
    e) He can make no cash disbursements without the consent of one other official, and none in excess of twenty-five dollars without the majority vote of the membership.
3. Administrator- shall assume the duties of the Vise-Commander in the absence of such. I addition he will:
    a) Collect information and report to the membership about favorable events.
    b) Make event schedule for the following season no later than the first day of March each year.
    c) Coordinate the registration of the unit prior to an event.
    d) Assume the responsibility for the safe storage and use of unit material and equipment.
    e) Organize recruiting programs and advertisements.

f) See that each new member has adequate help in adapting to our organization.

D. The responsibilities of these three officials will included the following:
   1. To assist each official in his duty to perform to his ultimate capacity.
   2. To enforce the guidelines as established herein.
   3. To ensure that all unit members are kept informed of all items of business and information affecting the unit. This may be either verbal or by distribution of newsletter.
   4. To review the application of new members to the unit and eject a member for serious breaches of the unit's Bi-Laws/Guidelines and principles.
   5. To assure the safe conduct of all members of the unit at an event. In any matter regarding the safety of any member of the UNIT, the decision of theses officials is final.

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I. General business meeting of the O.V.I. will be held once a month or as often as necessary to ensure the efficiency of the organization.

II. The DATE, time, and location of future meetings will be determined by the membership at previous meetings.

III. The length of the regular general meetings will not exceed two hours, unless an additional amount of time is approved by the majority vote of the attending membership.

IV. Special meetings necessary for education, TRAINING, committees an ect. can be scheduled by any member of the unit.

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STRUCTURE

I. Military rank of the O.V.I. or any other organization will have no influence, superiority or authority over the administration officials.

II. No person or part of the administration will have military control in the command function of the O.V.I., unless they hold a military rank.

III. The membership shall elect, on AN annual basis, all military rank within the O.V.I., (Commissioned and Non-Commissioned Officers).

IV. Each member will remain in a recruit status until acquiring a full uniform and accoutrements as described in later text.

V. Any individual advancing to the rank of private will be reviewed by the "BOARD", then examined and promoted by the Commissioned and/or Non-Commissioned Officers of the O.V.I.

VI. No member will be promoted to a Non-Commissioned of Commissioned Rank, without first being recommended by the officials of the command structure.

VII. In order to avoid the "TOP HEAVY" appearance of many units the following command ratio will be observed by the O.V.I.

a) Up to five members – One Corporal.
b) Five to Ten Members – One Corporal and Sergeant.
c) Ten to Fifteen Members – Two Corporals, One Sergeant and One Lieutenant.
d) Fifteen to Twenty Members – Three Corporals, One Sergeant, One First Sergeant, and One First Lieutenant.
e) Twenty or More members – Four Corporals, One Sergeant, One First Sergeant, and One Caption.

VIII. The highest ranking member in the command function shall have military command of the O.V.I. He shall receive all standard military courtesies commensurate with his position.

IX. It is imperative that any individual, assuming any rank be studied and proficient in the responsibilities of that rank as prescribed in the "revised regulations" for the army of the united states, 1861 and/or 1863

X. The O.V.I. will operate under its own rank structure and will not tolerate any unit's attempting to subordinate the O.V.I. to its authority without prior consent of the unit.

BRIGADING

I. In the event that the Ohio Volunteer Infantry elects to, temporarily join another Civil War Reenactment Unit, for any reason, the unit maintaining the highest rank will take command.

II. Any unit or individuals brigading with the O.V.I. will be expected to follow the O.V.I. Bi-Laws/Guidelines, especially as regards to safety, drill and rank structure. In order to assure the highest possible degree of safety for members of the O.V.I. all persons in units wishing to brigade with the O.V.I. will be expected to drill with us at regularly scheduled sessions.

UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

I. UNIFORMS SHOULD BE AUTHENTIC AND CORRECT IN PATTERN AND MATERIAL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THOSE WORN BY THE UNION SOLDIER OF THE UNITED STATES DURING JULY 1863.

II. ALL ACCOUTREMENTS AND EQUIPMENT SHOULD BE AUTHENTIC AND ACCURATE TO THAT CARRIED BY THE UNION SOLDIER OF THE OHIO VOLUNTEER INFANTRY AS OF PERIOD MENTIONED ABOVE.

III. THE FOLLOWING IS A LISTING OF THE BASIC UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT EACH MEMBER IS EXPECTED TO POSSES BY THE SECOND YEAR OF MEMBERSHIP AND THE ORDER IN WHICH THEY SHOULD BE ACQUIRED.

QUANTITY	ITEM
ONE	FORAGE CAP
ONE	DARK BLUE WOOL SACKCOAT, FOUR BUTTON
ONE	SKY (LIGHT) BLUE TROUSERS
ONE	PAIR OF AUTHENTIC SHOES (BROGANS)
ONE	COTTON, FLANNEL OR LINEN SHIRT, PERIOD DESIGN
ONE	PAIR OF PERIOD SUSPENDERS
ONE	LEATHER BELT WITH U.S. BRASS BUCKEL
ONE	PAIR AUTHENTIC GLASSES, IF WOREN
ONE	LEATHER CARTRIDGE BOX, TINS, AND SLING WITH FEDERAL BRASS
ONE	PAIR OF GRAY WOOL SOCKS
ONE	LEATHER CAP BOX
ONE	LEATHER BAYONET FROG AND SCABBARD
ONE	BAYONET
ONE	THREE (3) BAND RIFLE MUSKET, I.E. (ENFIELD OR SPRINGFIELD)

LIFE AND SAFETY

I. For the purpose of standardization, accurate living history demonstrations, and camp life competitions, the O.V.I. will establish its bivouac as prescribed by art. XXXVI, paragraph 515-523 of the revised regulations of the army of the United States, 1861 and/or 1863.

II. The O.V.I. will form one (1) company street of tents as the primary authentic camp.

III. Regular formations of the day include the following:
1) Reveille
2) Roll call (2 per duty day)
3) Meals
4) Company drill (2 per duty day)
5) Morning and evening colors

IV. Camp life activities at a O.V.I. sanctioned event will be scheduled for each event. Members will be expected to support our activities by participation from a certain prescribed starting time to a prescribed time of finish which will vary according to the type of event.

V. The authentic camp will be free of all modern and otherwise non-authentic items during the scheduled duty day in order to enhance our authentic impression. It is essential that any non-authentic items which must be kept in the camp be completely concealed at
all times during the duty day. It is urged that all member be considerate in this respect. It only takes one modern item to be in view to ruin the hard work and impression of the other members on the unit.

VI. Safety is primary at all times as all events. All members will observe safe conduct at all times, on and off the field.

VII. Non-prescription (illegal) drugs and substances will not be allowed in any O.V.I. camp!!! Any breach of this rule will not be tolerated and will constitute just cause for ejection from the event and the Ohio Volunteer Infantry with no exceptions!!!!!

VIII. To insure safety and authenticity at events, NO alcoholic beverages will be allowed in camp during duty hours. Because of spectators and children being in the camp after hours, it is suggested that alcoholic beverages consumed be kept in authentic containers.

IX. Anyone suspected of being under the influence of alcohol or drugs will not be allowed to participate in activities in which they would jeopardize the safety of other O.V.I. members and their families.

X. No weapons will be discharged, nor rolled cartridges charged within the confines of the camp at any time.

XI. Flammable and explosive materials should be kept away from campfires and open flames at all times. If these items are kept within the confines of the camp, please insure that they are properly and safely stored at all times.