

## **Constitution of the Mount St. Mary's Student Veterans Association**

**Article I:** Mount St. Mary's Student Veterans Association (SVA); The SVA maintains the right to dedicate this association to a Veteran via a majority vote of the membership.

**Article II:** The purpose of this association is to support veterans currently attending or wanting to attend Mount Saint Mary's University. Additionally, the association is dedicated to community outreach in an effort to support veterans more generally.

**Article III:** Voting membership in this association is open to all current Mount students, staff, and faculty. Non-voting membership in this association is open to all Mount alumni, faculty, and staff. Non-voting partners are considered anyone or organization who supports veterans and is recognized by the SVA. However, this association reserves the right to remove persons from the association who exhibit scandalous behavior, who violate the student code of conduct, or otherwise use this association to further their personal political aims. This association is intended to help veterans and, therefore, it will not take policy or political positions in the name of the association. SVA members are, obviously, free to have political opinions of their, but these opinions must remain separate from SVA activities. Violation of this standard will result in action against the violator which may result in their expulsion from the organization. Expulsion will be determined by a two-thirds vote of the association's membership.

**Article IV:** The chain of command for the SVA will be as follows:

President (current student veteran)

Vice President (current student veteran)

Treasurer (current student)

Secretary (current student)

It is important that the participation of this group is not limited to those who have served in the military. The structure should mimic the structures of veterans groups in society such as the VFW & AMVETS. These groups allow everyone inclusion through different types of memberships.

Non-veterans can hold officer positions except for the position of President and Vice President. Failure to create relationships with all persons can result in missed opportunities for networking, undermining the efforts of the veterans group on campus.

Leadership within the group should be decided democratically and follow the guidance of Mount policies and faculty.

**Article V:** Special committees for various functions may be created on an as needed basis by the SVA President or membership vote. These committees may be a permanent entity or only temporary as the particular circumstances dictate.

**Article VI:** Elections for executive board members will take place during the fall semester or upon special election to fill vacancies.

Persons shall be elected to office by majority vote of the membership.

In the case of a tie, an open re-election shall take place, only for the position in question. This re-election will also be decided by majority vote.

If majority vote still cannot be reached the position will be decided by the executive board with the cooperation of the candidates.

**Article VII:** The advisor of this group will be decided by the executive board on an as needed basis.

**Article VIII:** All persons in the SVA are subject to impeachment if in violation of the standards established in Article III.

Before an impeachment process is initiated, a counseling session must occur between the executive board and the member in question. In this session the reasons for the proceedings must be given to the member in question in writing. Both the executive board and the member in question will be given five minutes uninterrupted in order to argue their position. Following the arguments a question and answer session may take place under the guidance of the SVA President.

If the SVA President is the person in question, the governance position will follow the next step in the chain of command. Further, the duties of the executive member in question will be suspended until proceedings are completed. If an executive member is impeached, the members in the chain of command will move to the higher position until all of the top positions are filled. The open position in the chain will be filled by appointment by the board until the next election takes place.

If an agreement cannot be reached during the counseling session, the executive board will determine if the member will be impeached by majority vote. If the board votes in favor of impeachment the member must remove themselves entirely from participation in the SVA.

**Article IX:** Amendments to this constitution must be proposed in writing. Arguments for and against the constitution will be conducted prior to the vote and will be governed by the SVA President. The format for the arguments will be as follows:

A five minute presentation, uninterrupted, by those wishing to amend this constitution.

A question and answer session governed by the SVA President.

A majority vote of the membership in favor of the amendment is required to change the constitution.

**Article X:** Ratification of this constitution requires a unanimous vote by the executive board.