

**BY-LAWS OF
THE DESTROYER LEADER ASSOCIATION**

PREAMBLE

The members of the association do recognize the moral, social, intellectual, historical and other benefits to the members and their families from affiliation with the association. The members strive to cultivate the friendship of association and loyalty among members and do hereby agree to be governed by the following rules and regulations.

ARTICLE 1 NAME

SECTION: 1- The name of the organization shall be THE DESTROYER LEADER ASSOCIATION.

ARTICLE 2 PURPOSE

SECTION: 1-The purpose of the DESTROYER LEADER ASSOCIATION (here in after referred to as the “Association”) is to assist former shipmates who served aboard the five original Destroyer Leader Ships to meet and communicate with each other, to encourage the exchange of information about historical events, to preserve an accurate history of the ships for future generations, and to provide a conduit for our shipmates and the public to better understand the contribution of their naval service.

2- The organization shall be a non-profit, non-sectarian, and non-political organization.

ARTICLE 3 MEMBERSHIPS

SECTION: 1- Membership consists of those persons who are currently paid-up in their yearly dues.

2- All personnel who served in any of the five ships: USS NORFOLK DL1, USS MITSCHER DL-2/DDG-35, USS JOHN S. McCAIN DL-3/DDG36, USS WILLIS A. LEE DL-4 AND USS WILKINSON DL-5 while the ship was in commission are eligible to become Regular Members in the association. Rights and privileges accorded to Regular Members in good standing include: voting; holding elected office in the Association; serving on committees; attendance at reunions and other meetings; participation in all historical and other Navy Official functions; and participation in all historical and memorial functions sponsored by the Association.

3-Spouses of Regular Members enjoy all the rights and privileges of Regular Members, except, voting rights and holding elected office in the association, and are not required to pay annual dues.

4-Associate membership shall consist of those persons who want to be associated with the organization because of personal relationship to shipmates, sister ship associations or other reasons known to them, and have been nominated by a Regular or Lifetime Member. Yearly dues will be required to retain an associate membership. Associate members are not allowed to hold office or vote. Widows of Regular Members are eligible to be an associate member.

5-Lifetime membership shall be granted to Regular Members who attain the age of 80 years of age.

6-Honorary membership shall be granted by the association to those persons who have directly or indirectly contributed their time, talent or assistance to the association. Honorary membership may be granted by being recommended by an active member in good standing and upon a simple majority vote of the members present at the annual business meeting.

ARTICLE 4 DUES

SECTION 1-The Regular Member annual dues of this Association shall be \$20.00 per year. The year is defined as the calendar year, January 1 through December 31. The annual dues are payable in November, of each year.

2-Dues will not be collected from a Lifetime Member (whose age is 80 or older) or Honorary Member of this Association.

3-A member in good standing is one who has paid, or is not more than 60 days in arrears of payment of dues, or other money due to the association.

4-Any member who is in arrears of payment of dues is deemed to be delinquent after 90 days.

5-For new members, the dues would be pro-rated on a quarterly basis for the first year. New members joining April 1 – June 30 first years dues are \$15.00, joining July1 – pay\$10.00 pro-rata the first year.

6-The board of Directors may waive dues for Regular or Associate Members who desire to remain on the mailing list but are known to be unable to pay dues because of extreme financial reasons.

7-Associate member's annual dues are payable Nov 1 – Jan 1. Dues are \$15.00. New Associate members joining after July 1 pay \$10.00 pro-rata the first year.

ARTICLE 5 ASSOCIATION OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION 1-The Officers of the Association who collectively shall comprise its board of Directors shall consist of; a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Publicity Vice President, a Ship's Coordinator from each of the 5 DL's or DDG-35 or DDG-36 and immediate Past President. (The immediate Past-President serves in an advisory, non-voting capacity)

2-There shall be an election of officers at each annual business meeting by the voting members present. Officers shall be elected for two year terms with terms staggered so that 50% of the officer positions will expire at the end of each annual business meeting. In the event of a national emergency, or any other cancellation of the annual business meeting, the officers shall remain in office until the next regularly scheduled business meeting. The slate of proposed officers shall be presented to the members present at the annual business meetings.

3-The duties of the President shall be to preside over all meetings of the Association and of its Board of Directors, to organize the reunions, and enforce the by-laws of the association. He is a member of all committees. He shall appoint a Master at Arms to enforce security at the meetings and resolve any disputes, including eligibility for voting. A Parliamentarian shall be appointed by the President to assist in ensuring the proper conduct of the annual business meeting according to Robert's Rules of Order. The President also serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors.

4-The duties of the Vice President are to assume the duties of the President in the absence of the President. He is also to assist in the reunion organization and chair other assigned committees.

5-The duties of the Secretary shall be to record proceedings of the Business Meetings, respond to and refer correspondence to the proper Officers, and prepare DL Assn correspondence when directed to do so including assisting in preparation and distribution of the DL Assn News Letter. The Secretary shall maintain a membership roster of all the names, addresses, and phone numbers of the shipmates. He shall also notify Officers and Committees of their election or appointment, and shall assist the President in preparation of the Order of Business to be considered at each meeting. He shall send out notices of all meetings of the Association at least ten (10) days in advance. He shall present a brief Annual Report.

6-The duties of the Treasurer shall be to receive all monies from dues and donations and to keep an accurate account of all finances. The Treasurer shall also prepare a hard copy financial statement to be presented to the members at the annual meeting. He shall also maintain a checking account for the purpose of

paying all authorized bills. The Treasurer may also be authorized to pay an expense incurred by a Board Member, Active Member, or Associate Member with prior written approval of the President and Board Members, if the expense is deemed related to and a responsibility of the Association. The original of a BOD approved expense with appropriate explanation and documentation is forwarded to the President for approval signature. The President will send the original approved documentation and receipts to the Finance Chairman for review and forwarding to the Association Treasurer for prompt payment by DL Association Check. No expense reimbursement will be made without the President and BOD approval in writing and the appropriate documentation. Personal Expenses associated with annual reunion expenses are not reimbursable unless such an expense is directly related to the DL Association responsibility. The Treasurer is also responsible for issuing annual membership cards as members pay their Assn dues.

7- The duties of the Publicity Vice-President shall be to notify newspapers, periodicals and other appropriate media of the dates of the annual reunion. The Publicity Vice-President is responsible for the DL Assn website as well as its maintenance. The Publicity VP shall direct preparation of DL Assn Newsletter and/or other periodicals to keep membership or other interested parties informed as needed. (A Post-reunion Newsletter and a Pre-reunion Newsletter plus one or two mid-year issues are needed to keep paid-up members informed and to build enthusiasm. A pre-reunion notice shall be mailed to all non-members or potential members of record informing them of the annual reunion and to encourage them to attend and become members. All DL Association Communications are approved by the BOD in format and subject matter prior to publication.)

8- The Immediate Past-President shall sit on the BOD as a non-voting advisor to provide experience and guidance in Assn business. He remains on the BOD until the next Past-President relieves him. (The President may call on the Past-President to vote in the event of a "Tie" on an issue at a BOD meeting convened with an even number of attendees.)

9- The ship coordinators, as BOD members, represent their respective ships and the shipmates who served on them. It is their responsibility to bring input from their shipmates and to provide positive enthusiastic leadership to the DL Assn and its functions. They are encouraged to arrange a "break-out session" for their shipmates at each Reunion to listen to ideas and comments for the benefit of the Assn in general. Each Ship's Coord is encouraged to provide the Editor of the Newsletter with timely brief articles pertaining to their respective ship for each issue.

10- The Board Of Directors of the Association may meet once or twice each year at the Presidents discretion, subsequent to or prior to the Annual

Association Meeting. The purpose is to prepare the order of business for the Associations Annual Meeting and to handle all business as needed for the smooth operation of the Assn. BOD members may be reimbursed up to \$500 annually

Upon receipt of paid receipts for attending BOD meeting other than the actual reunion expenses. A BOD meeting maybe convened with 50% of the BOD in attendance.

11- All officers shall have the right to vote and debate matters the same as any other member except as stated in Section 8 above or in Section 12 below.

12- The President, or one who is presiding in his absence, shall avoid taking sides in the debate with other members on questions before the Association unless he surrenders the Chair. He is not prevented from entering discussion. The Presidents, or one presiding in his absence, need not surrender the Chair to debate an appeal from his decision of a motion, nor shall he be required to surrender the Chair when debating questions at BOD Meeting.

13- All Officers shall be required to take the following “Oath of office” at the time of their election, or in the necessary absence of any officer at the time, at a later time: “ I solemnly promise to abide by the rules, By-Laws and regulations of the Association. I further promise that I will perform the duties of my Office to the best of my knowledge and ability.”

14- Officers shall assume their duties upon adjournment of the banquet following the annual meeting.

ARTICLE 6 MEETINGS

SECTION: 1- A minimum of one annual Meeting of Association will be held in a city designated and voted on by the members present and voting at the business meeting of a previous reunion. The reunion will be held in the month of September or October.

2-Nomination and election of Officers will be held after all old business is concluded at the Reunion.

3-A Shipmate who is not a member in good standing is permitted to attend reunions without having voting privileges.

ARTICLE 7 ORDER OF BUSINESS

SECTION: 1- The order of business at regular meeting of the Association shall be

as follows.

- a. Call to order by the President
- b. Invocation
- c. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America
- d. President Appointments of Master At Arms and Parliamentarian
- e. Reading of the minutes and their approval
- f. Reading of communications and correspondence.
- g. Treasurers and Secretaries Reports
- h. Committee reports
- i. Unfinished Business
- j. New Business
- k. Announcements
- l. Good of the Association
- m. Adjournment
 - ((1) The president shall schedule individual “break out sessions” at the annual reunion for each of the 5 DL’ to allow those ships to select ship coordinators and discuss issues pertinent to their respective ship.)

2-At the Annual Meeting, the above agenda will be expanded to include the election, counting votes, announcement of new Officers and Directors.

ARTICLE 8 AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS

SECTION: 1- These by-laws may be amended at any regular or special meeting by a 2/3 vote of the Members present and voting, provided the notice, including the subjects of the proposed amendment, has been given prior to the call the meeting.

ARTICLE 9 COMMITTEES AND APPOINTMENTS

SECTION: 1- The President shall have the authority to appoint committees or accept volunteers for committees as he deems necessary for operation of the Association, to include the following:

(a. Finance Chairman and Audit Committee:

This Committee is to consist of up to three people at the Presidents discretion who will review all expenses submitted for Association reimbursement after the President and BOD approve them prior to forwarding for payment and payment by the Association’s Treasurer. (See article 5 para6, i.e. reimbursement).

(b. REUNION COORDINATOR PLANNER:

This person is authorized by the President and BOD to review and sign contracts for hotels, catering and tours on behalf of the Association when directed to do by the President. The Planner contacts the locations chosen by the BOD and approved by the Membership for the Annual Reunion accumulating the appropriate proposals and data required for each reunion along established good reunion guidelines.

- (a. Historian- The duties of the Historian shall be to maintain an accurate record of the history of the five original destroyer leader ships (DL-1, DL-2/DDG-35, DLS/DDG-36, DL-4 and DL-5). The Historian shall also provide an American Flag for the Annual Business Meeting, and lead the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance at the opening of the business meeting.**
- (b. Chaplain- The Chaplain opens and closes the meeting of the Association with an appropriate prayer. He is responsible for all Memorial Services, maintaining a list of the shipmates that have passed on, and is the Chairman of the Sick and Relief Committee. He offers the blessing when appropriate at meals and assists members in spiritual when requested.**
- (c. Ship's Store Manager- Coordinates the purchasing, inventory control, and sales of all DL Association Memorabilia items available for purchasing at the Annual Meeting etc. He evaluates the selection of items and establishes cost/sell with approval of the BOD. The Ship's Store Manager prepares and presents an annual report of sales and gross profit to date at the Annual Meeting.**

ARTICLE 10 ENDING OF THE ASSOCIATION

SECTION: 1-If the time should come when the members of the Association decide that to continue to exist as an organization is no longer practical, the following rules shall apply.

- a. The decision to disband can be decided at a regular business meeting by a vote of the majority of the members present and voting.**
- b. All members of the Association will be notified of decision to disband by mail, at least 30 days to the regular business meeting that the subject to disband is to be brought to the floor.**
- c. All monies and property belonging to the Association will be donated to a qualified Veterans Organization as determined by the members present at the last meeting. The monies shall be donated after all**

- outstanding bills have been paid.**
- d. A final financial report shall be sent to all surviving members.**

Revised Oct. 9,2006