



Constitution
of the
American GI Forum of Colorado

A Congressionally Chartered
Veteran's Family Organization

Founded in 1948

"Education is our Freedom ...and Freedom should be Everybody's Business"

**CONSTITUTION
OF THE
AMERICAN GI FORUM
OF COLORADO**

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**CONSTITUTION
OF THE
AMERICAN GI FORUM OF THE STATE OF COLORADO**

PREAMBLE

We, the various State GI Forum Organizations, GI Forum Men, GI Forum Women, GI Forum Youth Chapters of the American GI Forum, a Congressionally Chartered Veterans Family Organization, in order to better serve our People, our Country, our State and our local Communities, do hereby commit ourselves to the principles of American limited constitutional democracy, to the avocations of US military service veterans' rights, education, civil rights and socio-economic equal opportunity by organizing and establishing a State Organization of the GI Forum.

Therefore, we as Veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States and our families, joined together as the American GI Forum of the United States do hereby humbly invoke the blessings of Almighty God for This Organization and hereby, ordain and establish this Constitution.

ARTICLE I NAME, PURPOSE, PRAYER, PLEDGE, MOTTO, SEAL AND FOUNDER

SECTION 1: NAME

The official name of This Organization shall be "The American GI Forum of the United States".

SECTION 2: PURPOSE

The purpose of This Organization shall be to secure the blessings of American democracy at every level of life, local, state and national, for all inhabitants of our country, as well as to further the rights of all Veterans, of all our members, their families and friends, This Organization, its officers and members, therefore pledge to:

- A. Uphold and defend the constitution of the United States of America and the American flag;
- B. Foster and perpetuate the principles of American democracy based on religious and political freedom for the individual and equal opportunity for all;
- C. Foster and enlarge equal educational opportunities, equal economic opportunities, equal political opportunities for all citizens, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age or national origin;
- D. Secure adequate representation and participation of the ethnic minorities represented by this organization at policy making and administrative levels of local, state and national government in all departments, agencies, bureaus or other governmental units,

E. Combat all practices of a prejudicial or discriminatory nature in local, state or national life which curtail, hinder or deny to any inhabitant an equal opportunity to develop his or her full potential as an individual;

F. Foster and promote the broader knowledge and appreciation by all inhabitants of their cultural heritage and language;

G. Use only non-violent, lawful, civil and peaceful methods of pursuing the objectives of This Organization as set forth above.

SECTION 3: OFFICIAL PRAYER

The official prayer of the AGIF-US shall be the Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi. This prayer shall be recited at the beginning of every meeting of This Organization, whether local, district, regional, state or national.

Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

*LORD; make me an instrument of thy peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love.
Where there is injury, pardon.
Where there is doubt, faith.
Where there is despair, hope.
Where there is darkness, light.
Where there is sadness, joy.
Oh, DIVINE MASTER,
grant that I may not so much seek or be consoled, as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, As to love;
for it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned
and it is in dying that we are born to ETERNAL LIFE.
Amen.*

SECTION 4: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America shall be recited by all members of This Organization. It shall be given at every meeting of this organization at all levels immediately after the official prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all".

SECTION 5: MOTTO

The official motto of This Organization shall be "**Education is our Freedom and Freedom Should Be Everybody's Business**". This motto shall be used in all literature; letterheads, bulletins and other written material distributed by the AGIF at all organizational levels.

SECTION 6: SEAL

The official seal of the American GI Forum shall consist of a shield with seven red and six white stripes running vertically for two thirds of the depth of the shield and a blue field at the top third with thirteen (13) stars set six (6) on each side and one at top center. Across the blue field will be inscribed the word "American" and rays in a white background will run from the center star to the word "American". Across the face of the shield wherein lie the vertical stripes will be inscribed the word "GI Forum".

SECTION 7: FOUNDER

The Founder -Dr. Hector P. Garcia, the revered founder of the American GI Forum, has *journeyed* in full battle gear to join other of our troops in the Kingdom of Almighty God, but his ideas and ideals should be respected and followed as much as practically possible considering the conditions of the time. However, whatever the time, his tireless efforts to achieve social justice, equality of opportunity and a better life for the poor generally and for Hispanics specifically, shall keep the fires burning in the hearts of all those who continue to fight the lofty goals he sought. His name shall appear as Founder on the upper right side of all American GI Forum letterhead. He shall never be forgotten.

ARTICLE II MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1: GI FORUM CHAPTERS

The term Veteran shall be defined as all persons, male or female, who are American citizens or legal residents and who have served honorably, or are serving honorably, for at least six (6) months in the Armed Forces of the United States of America, including the Coast Guard, the National Guard or other official component for military service or training set up by the Armed Forces of the United States or who have served in such a unit for as long a time as it may be required to qualify as a Veteran as defined by the US Department of Veterans Affairs. Any Veteran wishing to become a member must provide a copy of his/her DD214 at the time membership application is submitted. All honorably discharged Veterans shall be eligible for active membership in the GI Forum chapters of This Organization.

SECTION 2: GI FORUM WOMEN CHAPTERS

All female persons, who are American citizens or legal residents and who are 18 years of age or older or who are married or have been married are at least of the age of 14 years, shall be eligible for active membership in the Women's Chapters. Said person's membership must be recommended by a member and must be approved by a simple majority vote of the GI Forum Women's chapter wherein membership is solicited. A female Veteran may join either a GI Forum chapter or a GI Forum Women's chapter.

SECTION 3: GI FORUM YOUTH CHAPTERS

All young persons who are American citizens or legal residents, single and between the ages of 10 and 21 years, shall be eligible for active membership in GI Forum Youth chapters.

SECTION 4: NON-VETERAN AND NON-MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES

Any adult person 18 years of age or older who does not fulfill the requirements of Section 1 of this Article, who is of good moral character and whose general reputation in the community in which he/she resides is good, may be voted into membership in any particular GI Forum chapter. Said person's membership must be recommended by a member and must be approved by a simple majority vote of the GI Forum chapter wherein membership is solicited. Provided, however, that the total non-veteran membership in any GI Forum chapter must not exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of the total membership except, however, that such percentage, once attained, shall not decrease if the percentage of Veteran members decreases. Provided, further, that all GI Forum chapters must have at all times at least eight (8) Veteran members. Understandably, the Veteran requirement shall not apply to GI Forum Women and Youth chapters.

Any person so eligible, who is of good moral character, who is disposed to uphold the principles of the AGIF, who pays his/her dues and takes the Oath of Members, shall be considered a member of his/her particular chapter as well as of the AGIF-US and of any pertinent AGIF Organization there under.

SECTION 5: ACTIVE MEMBERS -DEFINITION

In order to be considered an active member and eligible to vote in any AGIF Organization, all members must pay their dues as provided in this Constitution and other dues and/or assessments that may be levied through appropriate action of the Colorado Conference as well as pay such local and state dues and/or assessments as may be imposed by their respective local and state AGIF Organizations and thereafter take the Oath of Members.

All members must report any change of their address to their respective local, state, at-large and national AGIF organizations.

A. QUORUM -The quorum required for all AGIF chapters to legally transact all business shall be eight (8) members. All other AGIF Organizations shall themselves set their own quorum requirements.

SECTION 6: HONORARY MEMBERS

Any person who has rendered outstanding service to the community wherein he or she resides, or who has attained a ranking place in the field of letters, human or civil rights, science or the arts, may be elected to honorary membership in any GI Forum, At- Large, GI Forum Women or GI Forum Youth chapter by a majority vote of the members thereof. An honorary member shall not hold office or vote but may attend AGIF gatherings, be permitted to give counsel and guidance and to participate as ex-officio member of any committee to which he or she may be appointed.

Honorary members shall not be required to pay dues or other financial assessments, but may do so voluntarily.

SECTION 7: MEMBERSHIP DENIED TO SUBVERSIVES

No person who is, or has been, a member of any Communist, Fascist or other organization or conspiracy that advocates the overthrow or serious undermining of the Government of the United States shall be eligible for membership in this organization. To help enforce this requirement, an appropriate oath may be required by the Officers of this organization of any person who solicits membership of whatever nature in this organization.

SECTION 8: OATH OF MEMBERS

All members of This Organization, active and/or honorary, shall take the following oath when they join the American GI Forum. Such oath once taken does not ever have to be retaken.

Oath of Members

"I do solemnly promise and swear that I will uphold the Constitution and honor the Flag of the United States of America and of my State, that I will abide by the Constitution and By-Laws of the American GI Forum and that I will neither wrong nor harm, in any way, shape or form, the same, nor a member thereof, SO HELP ME GOD".

SECTION 9: NO RESTRICTION ON MEMBERSHIP BY LOCAL CHAPTERS OR ON THE NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

No AGIF Organization shall restrict the number of active members, except as provided in Sections 4 and 5 of this Article, nor shall the number of AGIF chapters be restricted in any given community by means of any rule limiting membership or limiting the number of AGIF chapters or local AGIF organizations to a given number in any city or community.

Local chapters in accordance with attendance or other reasonable rules, may accord privileges and benefits accruing from extraordinarily fine activity to those members complying with such rules in an exemplary manner.

SECTION 10: TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP

Any member in good standing of any AGIF chapter may request transfer of his/her membership to any other chapter in any other state by notifying the local chapter Secretary, whose duty it shall be to notify the proper chief local, state and national officer(s) of such transfer, except that such transfers shall not be authorized to a member residing in a state where a state AGIF organization exists, unless the member involved shall be domiciled in the state he/she wants the membership transferred to. It is permissible, however, to transfer membership from one AGIF chapter to another within the same state.

SECTION 11: DUES

A. The members of all American GI Forum chapters shall pay no less in the way of dues than the Colorado Conference may decide, but they may pay more, in accordance with whatever amount of the total dues the Local American GI Forum organizations shall decide to keep to help finance their own operations.

B. Lifetime Memberships -All those members wishing to become lifetime members shall pay any amount which the Colorado Board may hereafter alone determine, but no less than one hundred dollars (\$100.00), to so qualify. On such payment, the member involved shall have no further obligation to pay dues to the AGIF-US.

Lifetime membership does not exempt the member, however, from paying his/her state and/or local dues and/or assessments to maintain full, active membership in the local, district, regional, at-large and state AGIF

organizations of his/her domicile in any of which they shall still have a voice but not vote unless he/she shall pay whatever local dues and/or assessments may be ordinarily imposed on its members. At all Colorado AGIF gatherings, lifetime members shall have both a voice and vote. They shall also have a voice in any and all AGIF organizations, but a vote only insofar as provided herein.

C. Other Dues -All active members shall also pay such local and state dues or assessments as may be imposed by their respective local and state AGIF organizations as well as other dues or assessments that may be levied through appropriate action of the Colorado Conference. The Colorado Conference shall decide by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates present and voting the amount of dues to be paid to the AGIF by members of all AGIF organizations.

All such members who fail to pay lawful dues and assessments to their local, at-large or state AGIF organizations or to the AGIF-US, shall lose their membership, hence their voice and vote in any and all AGIF gatherings, but can be automatically reinstated on payment thereof without any formality. A lifetime member shall not ever lose his/her voice (and/or vote) in AGIF gatherings, except as provided for hereinabove.

ARTICLE III ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

SECTION 1: NATIONAL ORGANIZATION -AT-LARGE CHAPTERS

The AGIF -US shall be in the nature of a confederation composed of its own autonomy as well as the autonomy of the various state AGIF's, of local chapters, at-large chapters and any district and regional AGIF organizations, as presently existing at the time this Constitution is adopted, plus any new AGIF organizations organized in the future.

State AGIF's shall be defined as a state AGIF organization in the different states of the United States wherein three (3) or more charters have been issued to constitute GI Forum chapters which remain viable, regardless of the existence of whatever number of the other type chapters may exist in one or more cities of the respective state. All chapters in a given state which do not have the required number of GI Forum chapters to qualify as a state AGIF organization, shall be considered to be At-Large chapters, whether they be GI Forum chapters, GI Forum Women chapters or GI Forum Youth chapters; except that the District of Columbia shall be recognized as a state AGIF organization and shall be exempt from the requirement of having three (3) GI Forum chapters, but shall comply with all other requirements of a state AGIF organization.

SECTION 2: COLORADO AND AGIF GATHERINGS

A. Composition -The Colorado Conference of the AGIF shall be composed of the state officers as hereinafter specified, plus the delegates from the local organizations. The conference shall be referred to as the Colorado Conference.

B. Meetings -The Colorado Conference shall meet at least once each year at a site selected by the Colorado Conference one (1) year prior to each respective conference. In the event the host AGIF organization is unable to meet its commitment to stage the conference, a new site/host shall be selected by the Colorado Conference held prior to said conference, or if the Colorado Conference held prior to said conference has already adjourned, then a new site/host shall be selected by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Colorado Board of

Directors, either at a called meeting, or with its consent expressed in writing or by written mailed ballot of two-thirds (2/3) of the board members thereof.

- (1) -Any AGIF state organization wishing to bid for hosting a State of Colorado conference must provide a reimbursable retainer of five hundred dollars (\$500) earmarked for the state conference.

C. (a). Voting Procedure -At the AGIF yearly Colorado conference, each AGIF local organization shall be entitled to three (3) delegate votes: one each corresponding to the local Commander, local Chairwoman and local Youth Chair. Each must be on the assembly floor in order to be eligible to cast his/her vote.

(b). Additionally, each GI Forum, GI Forum Women, GI Forum Youth chapters from throughout Colorado, shall be entitled to four (4) votes for the first eight (8) through ten (10) members in good standing, and one (1) additional vote for each additional ten (10) members in good standing.

(c)(1). At any AGIF gathering - whether National, State, Regional/District, Local, At-Large, Washington DC chapters, Board of Directors or Executive Board (whatever name designation is chosen by directors) - there shall be no voting under the so-called "unit rule" in the entire AGIF organization, and so every AGIF organization in good standing shall have only as many votes at an AGIF gathering as it has duly registered delegates present and voting on the conference or meeting floor and shall be subject to the other provisions of this Subsection C.

(c)(2). Subject to quorum requirements, voting strength at local chapter meetings shall be based simply on one vote for each member present on the floor, but all other AGIF organizations assembled in any conference or meeting, including board or executive gatherings, shall be subject to the same rules voting strength as stated hereinabove in Subsection C, if the nature of their composition (unlike the Colorado Board) is such that the "unit rule" provision sets in.

(d) The cut-off date for receipt of memberships by the Colorado Office to determine voting strength of any AGIF organization at the Colorado conference or at any other conference or meeting shall be thirty (30) days prior to the opening date of any conference or meeting. Any membership application or application for charter received after the cut -off date will not be counted in determining voting strength of any particular AGIF organization. After the cut-off date, the Colorado Treasure shall compile and mail out a report of the potential voting strength of each at-large or local organization

(e) Roll Call Vote - At Colorado conferences, it shall take the call of three (3) individual chapters before a roll call vote may be so ordered and at any local conference or meeting, it shall take the call of three (3) members in good standing before a roll call vote is ordered.

(f) Vote and Election Results -Unless otherwise specified in this Constitution or in Robert's Rules of Order, if applicable, only a simple majority vote shall be required to determine any issue which is voted on at any AGIF organization gathering. Only members of chapters, which have paid their assessments, charter renewals and membership dues, shall be eligible to vote.

In all elections held in any AGIF organization, whether the process is done by paper ballot or otherwise, the winning candidate must carry the election by fifty percent (50%) plus one (1) of the votes taken. In some instances, the election process may require a run-off between the two (2) candidates with the highest votes. In any event, the Elections Chair shall see to it that the votes are tabulated and recorded with the help of

his/her committee. The Elections Chair shall announce the ultimate winner without giving numbers. But, if any candidate or his/her representative calls for announcement of vote number results, they shall be orally given to the assembly or privately given to the candidate, whatever the candidate or his/her representative may request. If any candidate calls for a canvassing of the votes, they shall be canvassed before him/her immediately and in the most expeditious manner.

(g) Limited Vote of Colorado Commander/Chair(s) -In keeping with the tradition of giving the Colorado Commander/Chair(s) an aura of impartiality before the assembly, the Colorado Commander, the Colorado Chairwoman and the Colorado Youth Chair shall not vote on any issue at the Colorado Conference, Colorado Board meetings and in their own respective assemblies unless it is to break a tie.

A delegation, for the purpose of the voting process, except for voting at the local chapter level, is defined as follows:

The AGIF state organization delegation for the Colorado Conference shall consist of the Colorado Commander, Colorado Chairwoman and the Colorado Youth Chair. Further, each duly chartered and currently paid chapter of the AGIF; is a separate delegation which includes each separate GI Forum chapter, GI Forum Women's chapter, GI Forum Youth chapter.

D. Delegations for State AGIF gatherings -Delegations to State AGIF, Regional/District or Board meetings shall consist of chapter members, from within the particular geographic area. Numeric representation and voting strength shall follow the rules set out in Section 2, C, thereof

E. Powers -The Colorado Conference shall be the supreme legislative and governing body of this organization and, except as may be restricted by this Constitution, shall have all powers necessary to administer its affairs and to promote the objectives set forth in the purpose clause in Article I, Section 2 of this Constitution.

The Colorado Conference shall be empowered to make fundamental and basic policy decisions for the organization and, except for any action taken by such Conference or Board on administrative, ordinary and perfunctory matters as more specifically set out hereinafter at Section 3, D. Pursuant to the powers herein granted, all resolutions and other actions of the Colorado Conference, shall be binding upon all officers and members of this organization, on the Colorado Board, local chapters, district and regional AGIF organizations.

F. Income - Expense - Progress -To guarantee that there shall be no financial loss in respect to a planned Colorado conference, the Colorado Board shall have veto power over the host AGIF chapter on matters affecting said conference with respect to the amount of the registration fee, the related cost of said conference and shall impose itself on the state of progress with regard to projected readiness. The Colorado Executive Board, by concurrence of a majority thereof, shall, if they have reasonable grounds to believe that the particular state conference is headed to failure, institute procedures, including the appointment of personnel to ensure progress and sound management and if need be, on its own motion, may go as far as to wrest away control of the entire program from the local organizations. The Colorado Board shall then pass on whether it shall take over the staging of the Conference permanently and completely or allow the local organization involved to continue in control or partial control of staging the Colorado conference.

In the event a profit is made on staging the Colorado conference, the same shall be divided on the basis of one-half (1/2) to the state organization, one-half (1/2) to the hosting chapter.

Any loss is to be assumed by the same AGIF organizations in the same proportions as stipulated above on profit.

No income generated from any local contest or other AGIF Colorado contest culminating at the Colorado Conference shall be considered as conference income in determining profit or loss from the conference.

Unless the Colorado Conference bills incurred in a given year have been paid in full by a hosting chapter(s) prior to the following Colorado Conference wherein the Local chapter(s) are situated shall be ineligible to bid further on any Colorado Conference sites within its geographic area until such bills and reasonable interest, if any, are paid in full.

G. In keeping with the voting procedure at the AGIF Colorado Conference level, such matters being fundamental, voting procedures and/or vote representation at all Colorado Conferences, Colorado Board of Directors meetings, the same rules on voting representation and procedures shall apply, as stipulated in Article III, Section 2, hereof.

SECTION 3: OTHER CONFERENCES

The National Conference shall be empowered to make fundamental and basic policy decisions for the organization and, except for any action taken by such Conference or Board on administrative, ordinary and perfunctory matters as more specifically set out hereinafter at Section 3, D. Pursuant to the powers herein granted, all resolutions and other actions of the State of Colorado Conference, shall be binding upon all officers and members of this organization, on the State of Colorado Board, local chapters, district and regional AGIF organizations.

To guarantee that there shall be no financial loss in respect to a planned National conference, the National Board shall have veto power over the host AGIF chapter(s) or AGIF State organizations on matters affecting said conference with respect to the amount of the registration fee, the related cost of said conference and shall impose itself on the state of progress with regard to projected readiness. The National Executive Board, by concurrence of a majority thereof, shall, if they have reasonable grounds to believe that the particular national conference is headed to failure, institute procedures, including the appointment of personnel to ensure progress and sound management and if need be, on its own motion, may go as far as to wrest away control of the entire program from the local and/or state organizations. The National Board shall then pass on whether it shall take over the staging of the Conference permanently and completely or allow the local and/or state organization involved to continue in control or partial control of staging the National conference.

In the event a profit is made on staging the National conference, the same shall be divided on the basis of one-third (1/3) to the national organization, one-third (1/3) to the state organization, one-third (1/3) to the hosting local chapter.

In addition, the one-third (1/3) profit that belongs to the state organization shall be divided the following way:

20% of proceeds shall stay with the Colorado office with the remainder of the profit being equally split with the local chapters of Colorado.

Any loss is to be assumed by the same AGIF organizations in the same proportions as stipulated above on profit.

No income generated from any local contest or other AGIF Colorado contest culminating at the National Conference shall be considered as conference income in determining profit or loss from the conference.

SECTION 4: COLORADO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A. Composition -The Colorado Board of Directors - The Colorado Board shall be composed of the Colorado officers as hereinafter named, the Colorado Commander, Colorado Chairwoman and Colorado Youth Chair and the local Chapter Commander, local Chairwoman and Local Youth Chair of each local chapter or their duly designated representative in descending order of office.

B. Voting Procedure - Each Colorado AGIF Colorado officer shall have one (1) vote. Please note that the Colorado Commander, Colorado Chairwoman and Colorado Youth Chair shall vote only to break a tie.

Roll call votes shall be ordered by the presiding officer at the request of any member of the Colorado Board.

C. Meetings of the Colorado Board of Directors - The Colorado Board shall meet quarterly during the year, in between Colorado conferences at a place designated at the previous meeting of the Board of Directors. The Colorado Board may also meet during the Colorado Conference and at such other times and places as may be designated by the Colorado Commander with the consent of a majority of the board and with thirty (30) days notice to all members of the Board.

D. Powers of the Colorado Board -Besides as hereinafter specified, the Colorado Board shall act as an ultimate judicial body of the state, inasmuch as such body, which shall act as a "court" of last resort, shall hear appeals taken under Article V, Sections, 5 C and 6 M hereof Its decisions shall be final.

Such body shall also provide impetus and direction to the State Organization expressed through any matter, on which a vote is taken, which shall carry by simple majority.

The Colorado Board shall make ordinary, administrative, perfunctory type decisions at the Colorado level on a final basis and without Colorado Conference approval.

All other decisions of such body such as those affecting fundamental change or basic policy, shall be made in the way of recommendations to the Colorado Conference which Conference may either veto in part or in whole a particular decision and silently allow such other decisions to stand and be considered as ratified.

SECTION 5: STATE AND LOCAL (REGIONAL AND DISTRICT) BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Each local chapter may have their own Board of Directors consisting of their officers and any other member element of their choosing. They may also choose to call such body their Board of Directors or Executive Board or whatever other adequate name. If any Regional/District AGIF bodies are organized in any area of the state, their board may consist of whatever level and number of AGIF officers and members they choose, provided that no AGIF body referred to in this section, is organized such as to include chapters or members from more than one (1) state.

SECTION 6: COLORADO OFFICERS -ELECTED

A. Designation -The Colorado Officers/Executive Board of this organization shall be as follows:

1. Colorado Commander
2. Colorado Vice-Commander
3. Colorado Secretary
4. Colorado Treasurer
5. Colorado Sergeant at Arms
6. Colorado Chairwoman
7. Colorado Vice-Chairwoman
8. Colorado Women's Secretary
9. Colorado Women's Treasurer
10. Colorado Youth Chair

B. The term of office of all officers of the state shall be for one (1) year. All three State chairs of Colorado shall be elected at the Colorado Conference by the entire membership.

The Colorado Conference shall accept the choice of the remaining Colorado GI Forum Women and Colorado GI Forum Youth in their individual election of their officers for whom they alone shall vote. All qualified delegates may together vote on the choice of state officers and on all other issues presented at any conference.

All officers shall be administered the Oath of Office and shall take office immediately following their election. The Colorado Chaplain, Colorado Legal Advisor and Colorado Parliamentarian may do likewise as soon as they are appointed by the Colorado Commander.

Oath of Office

"I, (give name), do solemnly promise and swear that I will uphold the Constitution and respect the flag of the United States of America and of my State; that I will abide by the Constitution and By-Laws of the American GI Forum of which I am (give position); my conduct and thoughts shall be for the betterment and advancement of said Organization and the people it serves; that I will serve to the best of my ability and will strive for cooperation with all officers, members and committees of said Organization; and that I will adhere always to such end and uphold the same to the utmost, SO HELP ME GOD".

C. Qualifications, Powers and Duties, Line of Succession:

The qualifications, powers and duties of the AGIF Colorado officers shall be as follows and their line of succession shall be in the numerical order, which is set forth hereinafter.

The AGIF state and all local organizations may, as reasonably practical but with flexibility, set up their officer structure in similar fashion; however, all such officers, shall meet the same qualifications and/or conditions as hereinafter set out for Colorado officers, except that local AGIF officers shall not be subject to the five/three year tenure provision set forth hereinafter for Colorado and state officers.

1. Colorado Commander -The Colorado Commander must fulfill the qualifications of Article II, Section 1 of this Constitution, except that he/she must be 21 years of age or older and must not be on active full time military service. In addition, he/she shall be a member in good standing in the American GI Forum for a minimum of five (5) years next preceding his/her election, provided that if he/she has held a state office or a national office in the American GI Forum for at least two (2) years, the five (5) year requirement herein set

forth, shall be reduced to three (3) years. He/she shall be the presiding officer, official spokesperson and official representative of the Colorado Organization. He/she will preside at the Colorado Conference and at Colorado Board meetings and will appoint all standing, interim and conference committees and all members thereof, as well as the Chair for the same. He/she shall appoint all committee chairpersons of the Colorado Conference committees with the advice of the Colorado Chairwoman. He/she shall appoint all members of the Colorado Conference committees and shall do so as reasonably as possible with the advice of the various AGIF state organizations.

The Colorado Commander shall exercise such powers and perform such other duties and functions as normally fall within the scope of such office as specified in this Constitution and any By-Laws, and failing this instrument or instruments to provide definition of duties, then as specified in the latest revision of Robert's Rules of Order, except as same are altered or proscribed by this Constitution or by action of the Colorado Conference.

The Colorado Vice Commander will succeed to any vacancy in the office of the Colorado Commander for the unexpired term thereof. In the event the Colorado Vice Commander is unable to serve or after assuming the office, ceases to continue in same for whatever reason, then such ensuing vacancy shall be filled by the next officer in line of succession as listed hereinafter.

2. Colorado Vice Commander -The Colorado Vice Commander must meet the same qualifications and be subject to the same conditions as the Colorado Commander in every manner in which he/she is called to do so and shall perform the duties and functions of the Colorado Commander in the absence or illness of the latter or at the request of the same. He/she, will exercise such other powers and perform such other duties and functions as normally fall within the scope of his/her office as specified in this Constitution and any By-Laws and, failing this instrument or instruments to provide definition of duties, then as specified in the latest revision of Robert's Rules of Order, except as same "are altered or proscribed by this Constitution or by action of the Colorado Board or the Colorado Conference. Any vacancy in this office shall be filled by the next officer in the line of succession.

3. Colorado Secretary - The duties of the Colorado Secretary will be to take and keep the minutes, or have such minutes done under his/her supervision, of the Colorado Board meetings and Colorado Conference and any other meetings called by the Colorado Commander. The Colorado Secretary will ensure that the minutes of all sessions of the Colorado Board and Colorado Conference are recorded and printed so that such minutes are submitted to the body for final approval, track all resolutions passed by the Colorado Conference and shall report at the Colorado Board meetings and Colorado Conference the follow-up actions taken and needed for said resolutions.

In the event a vacancy occurs in such position and the Colorado Conference is not in session, the Colorado Commander shall appoint an Interim Secretary until the AGIF state assembly meets at its annual meeting.

4. Colorado Treasurer - He/she should preferably have accounting experience. The Colorado Treasurer shall, working with the Colorado Office, ensure that all books and records are kept subject to an annual audit, ensure that financial reports are prepared for the Colorado Board meetings and Colorado Conference and ensure that an annual budget is prepared. It shall be required that he/she be bonded. This officer shall be the chair of the Colorado Finance Committee.

In the event a vacancy occurs in such position and the Colorado Conference is not in session, the Colorado commander shall appoint an Interim Treasurer until the AGIF state assembly meets at its annual meeting.

5. Colorado Sergeant at Arms - The Colorado Sergeant at Arms will maintain order and enforce any floor rules, under the direction of the Colorado Commander or the presiding officer, at all Colorado Board meetings and at the Colorado Conference.

At the direction of the Colorado Commander, the Sergeant at Arms shall have the power to deputize other persons to help maintain order and enforce floor rules.

In the event a vacancy occurs in such position and the Colorado Conference is not in session, the Colorado Commander shall appoint an Interim Sergeant at Arms until the AGIF state assembly meets at its annual meeting.

6. Colorado Chairwoman -The Colorado Chairwoman must fulfill the qualifications of Article II, Section 2, of the Constitution and shall be a US citizen or legal resident. She must meet the five (5) year or three (3) year membership requirement set forth for the Colorado Commander in Section 5; subsection D, 1, of this Article. She will be the presiding officer, official spokesperson and official representative of the Colorado American GI Forum Women. Her power, functions and duties will be the same in relation to the American GI Forum Women organizations as are those of the Colorado Commander to the entire AGIF organization, except that she will serve under the direction of the Colorado Conference and the Colorado Board. Any issue or conflict arising between her and the Colorado Commander shall be resolved by the Colorado Board or by the Colorado Conference by proper motion or resolution.

The Colorado Vice Chairwoman shall succeed to any vacancy in the office of Colorado Chairwoman for the unexpired term thereof. In the event the Colorado Vice Chairwoman is unable to serve or after assuming the office thereafter retires or leaves the office for any reason, then such ensuing vacancy shall be filled by the next officer in the line of succession.

7. Colorado Vice Chairwoman - The Colorado Vice Chairwoman must meet the same qualifications and be subject to the same conditions as the Colorado Chairwoman. She shall assist the Colorado Chairwoman in every manner in which she is called to do so and shall perform the duties and functions of the Colorado Chairwoman in the absence or illness of the latter or at the request of same. She will exercise such other powers and perform such other duties and functions as normally fall within the scope of her office as specified in this Constitution and any By-Laws hereof, failing which she shall resort to the latest revision of Robert's Rules of Order, except as same are altered or proscribed by this Constitution or by action of the Colorado Board or the Colorado Conference. Any vacancy in this office shall be filled by the next officer in the line of succession.

8. Colorado Women's Secretary -The Colorado Women's Secretary must meet the same qualifications and be subject to the same conditions as the Colorado Chair Woman. Her duties shall be to record the minutes of all sessions of the GI Forum Colorado Women's meetings.

In the event a vacancy occurs in such position and the Colorado Conference is not in session, the Colorado Chairwoman shall appoint an Interim Secretary until the AGIF Colorado Women's assembly meets at its annual meeting.

9. Colorado Women's Treasurer -The Colorado Women's Treasurer must meet the same qualifications and be subject to the same conditions as the Colorado Chairwoman. She shall be the custodian and the one responsible for all Colorado Women fund-raising projects, the Educational Achievement Program monies

and will be responsible for disbursement of expenses and payment of said programs. She shall submit to an annual audit of the books. It will be required that she be bonded.

She shall transfer to her successor in office, or anyone designated by the Colorado Chairwoman, all monies, securities, vouchers, book records or other properties of the AGIF Colorado Women in her possession or under her control, immediately upon change of administration.

In the event a vacancy occurs in such position and the Colorado Conference is not in session, the Colorado Chairwoman shall appoint an Interim Women's Treasurer until the AGIF State of Colorado Women's assembly meets at its annual meeting.

10. Colorado Youth Chair - The Colorado Youth Chair, whether male or female, must fulfill the qualifications of Article II, Section 3 of this Constitution, provided that such person must be a US citizen and be between the ages of 17 and 21 and must have been a member for three (3) years in good standing. The powers, functions and duties of this office shall be the same in relation to the American GI Forum Youth organizations as are those of the Colorado Commander to the entire organization, except that the person filling this office be subject to the supervision of the Colorado Commander, Colorado Chairwoman and Colorado Youth Advisor. Any issue or conflict arising between such person and the Colorado Commander shall be resolved by the Colorado Board or by the Colorado Conference by proper motion or resolution, but until such matter is resolved; such officer shall abide by the supervision of the Colorado Commander, Colorado Chairwoman and Colorado Youth Advisor. The Colorado Vice Youth Chair shall fill vacancy in this office for the unexpired term.

SECTION 7: STATE OF COLORADO OFFICERS -APPOINTED

Colorado Chaplain -The Colorado Chaplain shall be appointed by the Colorado Commander and shall not be subject to the five (5) or three (3) year tenure requirement. If possible, he/she should be a duly ordained Minister or Priest. He/she shall render the Official Prayer Invocation and Benediction at the Colorado Conference and Colorado Board meetings at which he/she is present. He/she shall also look after the spiritual welfare and guidance of this Organization and of the officers and members thereof. He/she shall serve at the will of the Colorado Commander.

Colorado Parliamentarian -The Colorado Parliamentarian shall be appointed by the Colorado Commander as soon as possible, but shall not be subject to the five (5) or three (3) year tenure requirement. He/she shall be the person in charge of keeping parliamentary order in all meetings of the AGIF Colorado Board. It would be advisable that the parliamentarian be an attorney. His/her rulings on any parliamentary law and procedure issue arising in the course of business of This Organization shall govern, unless and until they are overruled by a two-third (2/3) vote of the members present and voting, however a vote is taken in accordance with this Constitution. He/she shall have a voice and vote only at all gatherings of the AGIF State gatherings. He/she shall serve at the will of the Colorado Commander.

Colorado Legal Advisor - The Colorado Legal Advisor shall be appointed by the Colorado Commander as soon as possible and shall not be subject to the five (5) or three (3) year tenure. This position shall be filled by an attorney in good standing with his/her State Bar Association. He/she may attend all meetings of the AGIF Colorado. He/she shall advise and represent the AGIF Colorado on all legal matters, claims, transactions and cases at law, or to be litigated in the Courts. He/she shall have a voice but no vote at all gatherings of the Colorado Board and of those held in any AGIF state meeting, except that he/she shall have

a voice and vote at the Colorado Conference and in AGIF gatherings. He/she shall serve at the will of the Colorado Commander.

Colorado Women's Chaplain -The Colorado Women's Chaplain shall be appointed by the Colorado Chairwoman and must meet the same qualifications as the Colorado Chairwoman, but shall not be subject to the five (5) or three (3) year tenure. She shall look after the spiritual welfare and guidance of the members during the AGIF State Women's meetings. She shall serve at the will of the Colorado Chairwoman.

Colorado Women's Parliamentarian -The Colorado Women's Parliamentarian shall be appointed by the Colorado Chairwoman and must meet the same qualifications as the Colorado Chairwoman, but shall not be subject to the five (5) or three (3) year tenure. She shall be in charge of keeping parliamentary order in all the women's meetings of the AGIF State. Her rulings on any parliamentary law and procedure issue arising in the course of business of the Colorado Women's meetings shall govern, unless and until they are overruled by a two-third (2/3) vote of the members present and voting, however a vote is taken in accordance with this Constitution. She shall serve at the will of the Colorado Chairwoman.

Colorado Women's Sergeant at Arms -The Colorado Women's Sergeant at Arms shall be appointed by the Colorado Chairwoman and must meet the same qualifications as the Colorado Chairwoman, but shall not be subject to the five (5) or three (3) year tenure. She shall maintain order and enforce any floor rules under the direction of the Colorado Chairwoman or presiding officer at all AGIF State Women's meetings. She shall serve at the will of the Colorado Chairwoman.

At the direction of the Colorado Chairwoman, the Colorado Women's Sergeant at Arms shall have the power to deputize other persons to help maintain order and enforce floor rules.

Colorado Youth Chaplain -The Colorado Youth Chaplain shall be appointed by the Colorado Youth Chair and must meet the same qualifications and be subject to the same conditions as the Colorado Youth Chair. He/she shall look after the spiritual welfare and guidance of the members during the AGIF State Youth meetings. He/she shall serve at the will of the Colorado Youth Chair.

Colorado Youth Parliamentarian -The Colorado Youth Parliamentarian shall be appointed by the Colorado Youth Chair and must meet the same qualifications and be subject to the same conditions as the Colorado Youth Chair. He/she shall be in charge of keeping parliamentary order in all the AGIF State Youth meetings. His/her rulings on any parliamentary law and procedure issue arising in the course of business of the Colorado Youth meetings shall govern, unless and until they are overruled by a two-third (2/3) vote of the members present and voting, however a vote is taken in accordance with this Constitution. He/she shall serve at the will of the Colorado Youth Chair.

Colorado Youth Sergeant at Arms -The Colorado Youth Sergeant at Arms shall be appointed by the Colorado Youth Chair and must meet the same qualifications and be subject to the same conditions as the Colorado Youth Chair. He/she shall maintain order and enforce any floor rules under the direction of the Colorado Youth Chair or presiding officer at all AGIF State Youth meetings. He/she shall serve at the will of the Colorado Youth Chair. At the direction of the Colorado Youth Chair, the Colorado Youth Sergeant at Arms shall have the power to deputize other persons to help maintain order and enforce floor rules.

Colorado Youth Advisor -The Colorado Youth Chair shall select the Colorado Youth Advisor. He/she must serve or have served as a local, state or national officer and be familiar with the AGIF State Constitution and the revised version of Robert's Rules of Order. The Colorado Youth Advisor shall advise the Colorado Youth

Chair, his/her officers and members on issues pertaining to AGIF State youth. He/she shall inform the Colorado Commander and the Colorado Chairwoman of any concerns or changes pertaining to the AGIF youth. He/she shall serve at the will of the Colorado Youth Chair.

SECTION 8: COMMITTEES and BOARDS

The Colorado Board may establish committees, standing or for a limited purpose, abolish committees, change personnel within a committee and determine the jurisdiction of committees, subject to the provisions of this Article and guided by the direction of the Colorado Conference, if a direction has been delineated.

A. Colorado Advisory Committee -An AGIF Colorado Advisory Committee, composed of all past Colorado Commanders, Colorado Chairwomen and Colorado Youth Chairs is hereby created. Its main function shall be to counsel and guide incoming Colorado AGIF officers in order that fundamental American GI Forum policies and objectives are continued. It shall be incumbent on the Colorado Commander and other Colorado officers to seek the counsel of such Committee whenever basic policy decisions affecting the entire organizations are to be made without time being available for submitting such issues to the Colorado Board or the Colorado Conference. This Committee, however, shall have no veto powers.

B. Colorado Board Membership -Limitation -Members of the AGIF shall not serve on the Colorado Board or on a Board at any AGIF organization level if they are employed by an AGIF organization or by HEF, NVOP, SER, or any similar or successor organizations.

SECTION 9: COLORADO OFFICE

A. The AGIF Colorado Office of This Organization shall be located at a site selected by the Colorado Board. All financial, administrative and other records of the AGIF shall be kept at such office and shall be in the care of an AGIF member to be entitled as Colorado Executive Director and he/she shall be bonded at the cost of the AGIF. Mailing lists and other confidential material and records of the AGIF organization will not be released to any person or entity except by authorization of the Colorado Board. The Colorado Board alone shall appropriate such monies as are necessary for the proper administration of such office, keeping in mind personnel salaries, subject to submission of an annual accounting and budget.

B. Any AGIF salaried personnel who as members or representatives of the AGIF sit on a Board of Directors of HEF, NVOP, SER or any similar or successor organization, shall not be eligible to vote for the AGIF Colorado Commander or Colorado Chairwoman.

SECTION 9: FOUNDER'S MONTH

The month of March shall be known as the Founder's Month. Every effort should be made to ensure that events honoring the Founder will be held in the month of March.

SECTION 10: FINANCES

A. Fiscal Year -The fiscal year of the State AGIF shall be established by resolution of the Colorado Board.

B. Annual Operating Budget -With the recommendation of the Finance Committee, the Colorado Board shall adopt an annual operating budget.

C. Accounting Procedures -The Colorado Treasurer shall utilize accounting procedures and fiscal procedures in preparation of financial statements and financial reports that conform to generally accepted accounting principles as promulgated by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

D. Annual Audit -The accounts of the State Organization shall be audited not less than annually by an Audit Committee appointed by the State Commander. The Committee shall provide a report to the Colorado Board.

SECTION 11: THE INTER SE RELATIONSHIP OF AGIF ORGANIZATIONS - NON-PROFIT CORPORATE REQUIREMENTS

Every AGIF organization beneath the National level shall be affiliates of This Organization and chapters beneath the state level shall be affiliates of their respective State AGIF organizations as well. All shall be subject to this Constitution and their own Constitutional provisions not in conflict herewith. The relationship of all AGIF organizations shall be exclusively to help pursue the benevolent tenets of the purpose clause of this Constitution, but all AGIF organizations shall be autonomous and shall be individually responsible for any civil liability or criminal penalty incurred by them.

The AGIF Colorado, shall be required to operate under a non-profit corporate entity and all AGIF organizations at any level engaged in the operation of a hall for meeting and/or recreational purposes such as bingos, dances, social programs, etc., or which shall operate a bar providing beverages and/or food, shall immediately have to achieve non-profit status as well; else, they shall not operate under the AGIF name. No operation under the AGIF name shall exist for the personal monetary gain of AGIF members.

All GI Forum Youth Chapters shall be sponsored and supervised by a GI Forum Chapter and/or GI Forum Women's Chapter.

SECTION 12: CONSIDERATION OF MILITARY PERSONNEL FOR ELETION OF STATE AND LOCAL OFFICERS

When the scheduled dates for election of officers of Colorado and all other AGIF bodies at the lower levels beneath the state cannot be rescheduled for qualified members who are serving in a US Military component, and their annual training period conflicts with election dates, the member shall be declared eligible to run for office in absentia when he/she submits written notice of intent to do so at least thirty (30) days prior to election or in the previous meeting before elections.

ARTICLE V SUSPENSION, REMOVAL FROM, OFFICE OR EXPULSION

SECTION 1: CAUSE

Colorado officers and members of the Colorado Board may be impeached, (charged or accused), suspended, removed from office or expelled from the AGIF organization for the following reasons only:

A. Disloyalty to the United States or to This Organization manifested by either open and obvious or overt actions or statements, or by covert methods; in either case, such actions or statements as are calculated to be treasonable conduct, as well as for callous disregard for, and/or disobedience of, the terms of this Constitution, when such conduct is calculated to diminish, stymie and/or undo any AGIF organization.

- B. Misconduct in office of the type which is continuously disruptive and/or destructive of any AGIF organization.
- C. Misappropriation of funds.
- D. Notorious improper or immoral conduct which brings shame, disruption and is destructive of the AGIF.
- E. Conviction by Federal or State authorities of a felony class criminal offense.
- F. Proven sexual harassment in employment outside of any AGIF organization as recognized and adjudicated by any State or Federal jurisdiction at the administrative level or at a court of law level if appealed thereto, or if found guilty of sexual harassment within the AGIF structure guided by State standards wherein the accused resides and/or by Federal standards.

SECTION 2: PRESENTATION OF CHARGES

- A. In any and all cases, AGIF Colorado, local or at-large, the charge(s) must be presented in the way of a written complaint and must be specific, particular, clear, written or typed, dated and signed by the accuser under oath. The specific charge(s) must contain which of the violation(s) under this Constitution as set out in Article V, Section 1, A through F above, are applicable in the case. Charge(s) against officers and members beneath the AGIF Colorado level may also be brought under AGIF State Constitutional provisions provided that same are not less severe than those hereunder and that all procedural due process provisions hereunder are observed as a minimum.
- B. When the complainant is a fellow Colorado officer or member of the Colorado Board, the complaint shall be filed directly with the Colorado Commander who shall thereupon furnish the accused and members of the board with a copy of same.
- C. When a complaint is filed by any ordinary member against a Colorado officer or Colorado board member, it must be filed with the respective AGIF State organization of the complainant. It shall then be forwarded to the Colorado Commander.
- D. If the accused Colorado officer or Colorado board member is a member of the same AGIF State organization as the complainant, the complaint shall be filed with the Colorado Executive Board directly.
- E. The charge(s) must also contain the discipline sought:
 1. Verbal reprimand with corrective guidance and counseling; or
 2. Impeachment with possible suspension of AGIF membership not to exceed three (3) months; or
 3. Removal from AGIF office; or
 4. Permanent expulsion from all AGIF organization membership

SECTION 3: INVESTIGATION OF CHARGES

The Colorado Board shall cause an investigation of the charges and pursuant thereto shall appoint an Investigative Committee of three (3) AGIF members from any AGIF organization level for the purpose of investigating the complaint/charge. After such investigation, the Investigative Committee findings will be

reviewed by the Colorado Commander, the Colorado Chairwoman and the Colorado Youth Chair, with the aid of the Colorado Executive Director. They will determine whether or not the complaint has merit.

Should the complaint be filed against the Colorado Commander, Colorado Chairwoman or Colorado Youth Chair, then the next succeeding AGIF officer shall be one of those reviewing the findings.

The Colorado Commander, as necessary, shall seek legal counsel from the Colorado Legal Advisor and the Colorado Parliamentarian, both of whom shall be considered eligible to sit in any aspect of the decision making process regarding these matters. They shall have only a voice but not vote.

A. When it is determined that the complaint lacks sufficient evidence to support the allegations and the complainant is unable to furnish additional supportive evidence within a reasonable time, not to exceed forty-five (45) days, the complaint will be dismissed as without merit. The Colorado Commander will notify all parties concerned about such event in writing.

B. When it is determined that a complaint has merit and the nature of the complaint warrants mediation to help resolve or settle the controversy involved in the complaint, efforts should be made at mediation before a formal hearing is scheduled. The Colorado Legal Advisor and the Colorado Parliamentarian and a third (3rd) member of the AGIF appointed by the Colorado Commander shall serve as the Mediation team. If mediation is successful, the matter shall be considered closed.

C. When settlement at mediation fails, the Colorado Commander shall immediately schedule a hearing prior to the start of business of the Colorado Conference. The Colorado Commander shall notify all parties involved of the date, time and location of said hearing.

SECTION 4: THE HEARING

A. The Colorado Commander shall appoint a Hearing Panel, composed of Colorado Board members of no less than five (5) in number, and appoint its Chair. The appointed panel and its Chair shall conduct the hearing. The Colorado Legal Advisor and/or the Colorado Parliamentarian may be present for the duration of the Hearing. He/she or they shall advise the Chair and the panel but shall not have a vote.

B. Hearings at all AGIF Levels to be Informal - All AGIF hearing committees, panels or bodies shall not be governed by the strict rules of evidence as is observed in American (USA) jurisprudence and hearings whether at the AGIF national, state or local level, shall be informal. Ordinary law court procedures or dilatory tactics used to prevent a timely hearing and/or ruling shall not be allowed. All hearing proceedings, however, shall be reduced to writing, as much as practical, particularly decisions and other crucial aspects of all proceedings so that if an appeal is taken the higher (appellate) AGIF authority may be able to review lower level proceedings totally.

C. The Colorado Legal Advisor shall represent the interests of the AGIF organization. The Colorado Legal Advisor and the Colorado Parliamentarian shall not represent the personal interests of a Colorado officer or Colorado Board member, unless the complaint is from outside the AGIF organization.

D. The charging party will present his/her testimony and the panel shall allow for charging party's witness/witnesses testimony and all other evidence to be considered. The members of the panel have a right to question the charging party and his/her witness/witnesses.

The charging party shall have the right and the option to legal representation.

The accused shall have the right and the option to legal representation and both parties shall be free to present live witnesses, documents, affidavits, pictures, videos, etc., in the way of evidence.

The charging party and the accused shall each have the right to one (1) peremptory challenge to a Hearing Panel appointee. On the appointee being so challenged and removed, the Colorado Commander shall appoint another member in his/her place.

E. At such Hearings, the parties involved, panel and respective legal representative(s) shall have the right to cross-examine the witness/witnesses and the parties.

SECTION 5: FINAL DETERMINATION

A. Based on the evidence and the results of such as Hearing, the Hearing Panel with the counsel of the Colorado Legal Advisor and any assistant of his/her choice, shall make a determination of "guilty" or "not guilty" by two thirds (2/3) vote of the panel.

B. The panel shall also recommend whether the accused shall be reprimanded, suspended for a period of time, removed from office and/or expelled from the AGIF organization.

C. Appeal shall be available to either party involved in an effort to dissipate in-built bias, which might have developed in the originating site of the charge and the appeal shall lie with the entire Colorado Board. The notice of appeal shall be filed within thirty (30) days from the date of the actual notice of written decision is given to the accused either personally at the hearing, by courier, or by certified return mail to the accused. The Colorado Board shall only review all evidence and findings. The accused, his/her representative or legal counsel shall be given sixty (60) minutes for argument and the board representative or counsel shall have equal time to respond.

D. The Colorado Board shall make the final decision, after which there cannot be any further appeal. A copy of the written decision shall be furnished to the parties involved.

E. In the event of a "not guilty" verdict, the accused shall continue in office and shall be restored to all rights and privileges of office and membership in the AGIF. In the event of a "guilty" verdict, the accused shall receive the particular penalty pronounced by the Colorado Commander that he/she is found guilty of.

SECTION 6: SUSPENSION AND REMOVAL FROM OFFICE; EXPULSION OF LOCAL AND STATE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

The reprimand, impeachment with possible suspension, removal from office and expulsion procedure set forth in Section 1 and Section 2, A, of this Article shall also be applicable hereunder.

Otherwise, a Standard Grievance Procedure is hereby adopted which will be applicable to AGIF officers, other than at the Colorado level and to all local or ordinary AGIF members as follows:

A. The purpose of this procedure is to provide an opportunity to any member or officer to file a misconduct complaint which must be in writing and under oath, against any other officer or member under this Section.

B. Charges against a state officer shall be filed with the State Board of Directors or Executive Board, whatever the state designation shall be for such body. Charges against a local officer, member, at-large officer or member shall be filed with the particular chapter Board of Directors or Executive Board.

The AGIF State organizations, Local chapters and Boards shall be constituted as set out in Article III, Section 4 of this Constitution. In proceedings under Section 6 hereof, the State Legal Advisor and/or State Parliamentarian, if any, may attend but are not obligated to attend such hearings and if in attendance shall have a voice at any hearing but no vote.

C. Although each chapter is an autonomous entity, members of separate chapters acting jointly, collectively or in common on a regular basis, may file a complaint against a member of a separate chapter, i.e. GI Forum chapter member against a GI Forum Women chapter member or GI Forum Women chapter member against a GI Forum chapter member, an AGIF Youth officer or member and an At-Large officer or member is included. When this is done, the complaint will be filed with, investigated and heard by the State Board of Directors.

D. Any active member within the same chapter may file charges against any other member.

E. The complaint must also contain the discipline sought as under the provisions of Article V, Section 2, E.

F. A complaint will be personally delivered to the local/state Commander, Chairwoman or Youth Chair, whichever is applicable. The presiding officer will announce receipt of the complaint at the next regularly scheduled meeting if held within thirty (30) days from receipt of the complaint; otherwise the announcement will be by mail to all members in the particular local AGIF organization or read to the members of the board if the complaint involves a state level officer. The local Commander, Chairwoman or Youth Chair, Vice Commander, Vice Chairwoman or Vice Youth Chair and the local secretary of each entity or the State Commander, State Chairwoman and State Youth Chair, as the case may be, shall appoint a Grievance Chair and four (4) other members to serve on a Hearing Committee of five (5). If one of the named officers is the one charged, then the officer next in line (as in the officer lineup set out in this Constitution) shall serve. The accused shall have one peremptory challenge as provided in Section 4, D, of this Article.

G. The Hearing Committee shall meet and proceed to an investigation of the alleged violation(s). If the complaint is determined to be groundless, the charges will be dismissed. If the charges appear reasonable and likely to result in disciplinary action, the Hearing Committee Chair will notify the accused by courier or certified return receipt mail. If either party so requests, a mediation session held by the Hearing Committee will be scheduled. If mediation is successful, the matter ends, if not, then the process shall continue as hereinafter set forth.

H. Upon notification, the accused shall have fourteen (14) days from the date of receipt of the notice to proceed with a formal hearing to respond and request a hearing date, place and time convenient to all parties. If the Hearing Committee Chair receives no response within the fourteen (14) day period, the Hearing Committee will schedule a hearing date, place and time. In any event, the hearing date, place and time, reasonably convenient to both sides, shall take place not more than four (4) weeks after the response time has ended.

I. The accuser and accused may represent themselves or be represented by counselor by anyone of their choosing. Both sides may present live witnesses, affidavits, supporting written documentation, pictures,

videos, etc., which address the specific allegation(s). The accused need not be present at the hearing, which absence is not to be interpreted as an admission of guilt.

J. The decision of the Hearing Committee will be based upon testimony, supporting documentation and all other evidence presented. If found guilty of the charge(s), the Hearing Committee Chair will submit the findings of the committee to the state or local chapter Commander, Chairwoman or Youth Chair, whichever is applicable, who in turn, will impose the penalty. It shall so be done at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the body. No member of the committee, any local officer or vote of the full membership of the particular body may impose a lesser penalty than that requested in writing by the accuser, whereby, the accused will either stand guilty of the particular charge or be acquitted.

K. The Hearing Committee is charged with maintaining written documentation of each phase of the case as proof of its compliance with this grievance procedure. This includes the charge(s), evidence, hearing notes/minutes, findings, ruling, opinions, etc. All documentation must be available for copying by the accused.

L. The Hearing Committee is duty-bound to be objective in its decision-making process and will conduct its meetings and hearing in a spirit free from prejudice or bias. It shall at all times, make prudent and reasonable decisions.

M. Appeal - A local member's adverse decision or ruling may be appealed to the AGIF State Board of Directors, while a state officer's appeal is to the Colorado Board and shall be governed by procedure thereof. Appeal, however, may be taken by the accused or the accuser, in an effort to dissipate state or local bias. Appeal must be in writing filed within thirty (30) days from the date on which the Chair imposed the penalty in writing and presented at the regular local or state board meeting if the accused is present at the meetings if not then, the thirty (30) days shall start to run from the date when the written notice/decision is physically delivered by courier with receipt or is mailed to the accused by certified, returned receipt mail at the last known address of the accused and is either actually received by the accused or the letter notice is returned undeliverable. Appeal is interpreted to mean that the reviewing authority only reviews the documentation and written evidence from the originating chapter/state. The reviewing authority shall allow each party to the controversy sixty (60) minutes for oral argument, if requested. The reviewing authority thereafter, will issue a ruling that the penalty is either affirmed or overruled, or, if the case warranted complete expulsion from the particular AGIF organization in question and only in such cases, if the appellate or reviewing authority feels that the originating chapter or state seriously erred in its procedure, it may return the case to the originating AGIF organization to be heard again to correct a procedural error.

The accused or the accuser may take a last resort appeal, by filing notice thereof, along with all the case documentation with the Colorado Board within forty-five (45) days from the ruling of the lower authority. The Colorado Board presiding officer, (Colorado Commander) shall set the case for review of all of the case documentation only at its next regularly scheduled meeting and notify the parties involved thereof. Each side shall be given sixty (60) minutes to present arguments on their case after which the Colorado Board may issue its ruling to either affirm the case decision from which there shall be no further appeal, or rule that the charges were either unfounded or not proven and thereby issue a finding of "not guilty". In the case of intended complete expulsion from the AGIF and in such cases only, if a substantial procedural error is found in the case, same shall be reversed and heard anew by the originating AGIF organization. A written copy of the decision shall be provided to the parties involved. In any case, however, where the Colorado Board does not find substantial procedural error and the board affirms a finding of "guilty", there shall be no further appeal and such decision shall be final.

N. The Colorado Office shall be notified of any reprimand, suspension, removal of office or expulsion of an officer and/or member from the AGIF.

O. In such event, the Colorado and the AGIF-US National Executive Director shall maintain a record of said decision and in the event of expulsion, remove the name(s) from the active files and assure that said member's applications are not transferred to another chapter.

ARTICLE VI CHARTERS, ASSESSMENTS, LOSS OF CHARTERS, REPORTS AND RECORDS

SECTION 1: CHARTERS

A. (1). All charters for GI Forum, GI Forum Women and GI Forum Youth chapters, as well as for all At-Large AGIF organizations, shall be issued nationally by the National Executive Director and shall be signed by him/her and the National Commander.

(2). Any group wishing to petition the AGIF-US for a charter, must have eight (8) potentially qualified members, submit the application, DD214's, if applicable, along with designated fee set by the National Board to an AGIF State Office or state officer who shall expediently certify to the National Executive Director whether the applying group has met all the qualifications set out in Article II, Sections 1,2,3,4 and 5 as may be applicable and whether it is a bona fide group or not. Should the State AGIF Office or state officer certify that the group is not bona fide, the National Executive Director, with the advise and consent of the National Commander, shall appoint an investigative committee of five (5) members, only two (2) of whom may be from the same state as the applying group.

The committee shall investigate with all deliberate speed and by majority vote, inform the National Executive Director on whether the group is bona fide or not and he/she shall forward the information to the National Commander.

Its decision shall be final. An At-Large group wishing to petition for an AGIF-US charter shall file directly with the National Executive Director and he/she will ensure whether the applying group has met all the qualifications set out in Article II, Sections 1,2,3,4 and 5, as may be applicable and whether the At-Large group is bona fide or not. Should the National Executive Director certify that the applying group is not bona fide there shall be an automatic appeal to the National Executive Board. A majority of the State or National Executive Board shall determine in final form whether the group is bona fide or not. Any group certified as bona fide shall receive a charter forthwith.

All chapters shall be free to add a particular name to their chapter, whether it is the name of a city, an individual or any other distinguishing name. No GI Forum, GI Forum Women, GI Forum Youth or At-Large chapter shall be permitted to use a name identical to that of an existing chapter within a given community. Any chapter wishing to change or alter its name shall petition for a new charter and pay the appropriate charter fee.

B. (1). Failure to Forward Charter Applications -Any bon fide group denied its right to have its charter applications forwarded to the National Executive Director by an AGIF State Office or state officer, may appeal to the National Executive Director and with the consent of the National Commander, order the AGIF State organization or officer in question, to forward the same. In any event, failure to forward charter application within sixty (60) days from the appeal to the National Executive Director, he/she shall go ahead and issue a charter to the soliciting group, provided that the group applying has met all the qualifications set

out in Article II, Sections 1,2,3,4 and 5, as may be applicable. The retrieving of the instruments, including charter application, money orders, etc., may be accomplished by whatever legal means later. All State AGIF organizations shall abide by the National Executive Board's final decision and recognize the validity of any charter issued by the AGIF-US.

SECTION 2: CHARTER RENEWAL FEES

All local GI Forum, GI Forum Women, GI Forum Youth as well as all At-Large chapters, once duly chartered, shall be required to renew their charters during January of each calendar year upon payment of a fee to the Colorado Office in an amount established by the Colorado Conference in conformity with the cost of living of the times. Should any AGIF organization fail to pay its charter renewal fee and/or appropriate dues, its charter shall be suspended, but if paid within thirty (30) days from the end of January of the year in question, its charter shall be automatically reinstated. If not so paid, there shall be a penalty of not less than ten dollars (\$10.00) a month or in an amount determined by the Colorado Board for the ensuing two (2) months. If the chapter has failed to pay during such period, then the group may apply for a new charter in accordance with the provisions of the Section and of Article II, Sections 1 through 5.

SECTION 3: OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS OR ASSESSMENTS

With the exception of the charter fee, the cost of subscription of the official publication of This Organization and dues as provided in Article II, Section 11 in this Constitution, neither the National Board nor the National Conference shall have the power to levy or impose upon a

particular State AGIF organization or any affiliate AGIF organization thereof or an At-Large AGIF organization, any additional dues, charter fees, charter renewal fees or other contributions and assessments without the consent of the particular AGIF organization, provided that any fee or assessment which is connected with and made a part of any contest terminating at the national AGIF level, shall not be covered by the provisions of this Section.

SECTION 4: REPORTS TO NATIONAL OFFICE

All State AGIF organizations, its affiliates and all At-Large AGIF organizations, for the purpose of reporting to the Internal Revenue Service and other necessary purposes, shall submit such financial, membership and other reports at such time or times as are required by the Colorado Office. Failure to provide such reports and to file the proper information in connection with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and other governmental agencies when it is required to comply with the rules and regulations of such agencies, shall authorize the Colorado Office to suspend the charter of the delinquent AGIF State organization, its affiliates and all At-Large AGIF organizations.

Any AGIF State, At-Large or Local organizations, which organize its own corporation and gains 501 (c) 3 status or any other such status under the identity of the American GI Forum, shall comply with this Constitution and shall provide for equal representation on the board of directors of said corporation. The corporation shall provide equal employment opportunity to all persons and shall so provide as stated above in the corporate charter, constitution and by-laws of said constitution.

All AGIF State and At-Large organizations applying for corporate status as 501 (c) 3 or any similar type non-profit corporations shall first obtain authorization from the National Office.

All AGIF National, State, At-Large and local organizations holding corporate status as 501(c) 3 corporations (or similar status at law, should the number designation change) shall report to the National Office, as requested by same, information as to the state of incorporation, corporate charter number, employer's identification number and provide copies of the Internal Revenue Service letter granting 501 (c) status, as well as the annual IRS form 990.

SECTION 5: LOSS OF CHARTER

An AGIF organization may also lose its charter for group misconduct as set out or outlined in Article V, Section 1, A through F, as determined by the National Board and on its own motion, but suspension may occur only after a full hearing before the National Board whose simple majority ruling shall be final. The accused AGIF organization shall have the right of representation by counsel and shall have the right to present all evidence in the way of documentation, witnesses, pictures, videos, etc. and an opportunity for argument not to exceed sixty (60) minutes. The Board shall have equal representation, introduction of evidence and argument rights. Should the AGIF organization charter be suspended, it shall so remain until the group purges itself of fault to the satisfaction of a majority of the National Board before it can be eligible to have a new charter issued to it.

The National Board shall fix the amount of cost of reinstatement of the charter.

SECTION 6: RETENTION OF RECORDS

All AGIF organizations shall retain and properly store their records to comply with the time limits set forth by the Internal Revenue Service, Department of Labor and other governmental agencies, as well as by the AGIF-US.

Outgoing officers at all levels shall pass on all records to the succeeding officers.

All AGIF State organizations must provide a place for safe and proper storage of organization records.

ARTICLE VII GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1: BASIC DOCUMENT

This Constitution adopted at the AGIF Colorado level shall be the basic law governing this Organization, AGIF A-Large organizations and all AGIF Local, District/Regional organizations. Any constitutional provision in the constitutions of any of the AGIF organizations mentioned hereinabove, which may be in conflict with the provisions of this Constitution, shall be invalid and of no force or effect.

SECTION 2: NEPOTISM CLAUSE

No Colorado officer or member of the Colorado Board of Directors shall vote or participate in any manner (speak) in the naming or selection of any officer who is related to him/her within the third (3rd) degree by blood or marriage to a position of remuneration in this Organization, nor shall such person vote or participate in any manner (speak) on any issue affecting such a position.

SECTION 3: RULES OF PROVISION

The latest revision of Robert's Rules of Order shall be adopted as the rules of procedure at all meetings of this organization and of all AGIF State, At-Large, Local and District Regional organizations, except as such may be altered or changed by properly adopted rules of procedure of any AGIF gathering, so long as such rules are adopted before the gathering in questions brings its initial session to order.

SECTION 4: POLITICAL ENDORSEMENT

While this organization seeks the participation of all citizens as individuals in political affairs, it is forbidden of all officers and members of this organization and of AGIF organizations at every level, to use the name "American GI Forum", "GI Forum" or any other derivative or abbreviation of the same, for the support of any candidate for public office or of any political party. Letterheads, emblems and other insignia or material identified with the AGIF shall not be used by any member or by an AGIF organization when participating in political affairs as individuals. Members of the AGIF will do their utmost not to be identified politically as officers or members of the AGIF.

SECTION 5: POWERS OF STATE AND AT-LARGE ORGANIZATIONS

All State and At-Large AGIF organizations may adopt their respective constitution and by-laws setting up their own structural organization, officers, board of directors and providing for the titles or names thereof, provided that nothing therein shall conflict expressly or in substance with the provisions of this Constitution. Such organizations shall have the power to raise monies by dues, assessments, projects and by other lawful means for their own purposes and to set up their own procedures for contests and other fund raising functions within their jurisdiction and sphere of activity. Provided, however, that all local chapters are requested to elect their officers during the month of December of each year and notify their respective state officers and the Colorado Office of the names and addresses, zip code and phone numbers of each member and newly elected officers.

ARTICLE VIII PROCEDURE MANUAL

SECTION 1: PROCEDURES MANUAL

A procedures manual shall be developed by Colorado or by any member acting in a similar capacity with the approval of the Colorado Executive Board.

ARTICLE IX AMENDING PROCEDURE

SECTION 1: PROCEDURE

Proposed amendments to this Constitution, which has reference to piecemeal amendments or to the adoption of an entire document, (text), must first be submitted to the Colorado Legal Advisor, the Colorado Parliamentarian, the Colorado Commander. The three (3) named officers shall determine whether the proposed text is stated in proper form with guidance from the Colorado Chairwoman and the Colorado Youth Chair. They shall be free to suggest and/or aid in re-writing, if necessary.

Next, within thirty (30) days from submission to the named officers or from the re-writing, whichever is later, but in any event in not later than sixty (60) days from the date of submission to the officers, the text

shall again be immediately submitted to the Colorado Commander who shall forthwith, send a copy of the text to all legally constituted chapters of the AGIF Colorado for their review.

Thereafter, an AGIF Colorado Board of Directors must adopt the text in principle by simple majority vote.

Next, the text shall be sent forthwith to each member of the AGIF Colorado Executive Board of Directors at least thirty (30) days before a meeting thereof called by the Colorado Commander. The members of the Colorado Board shall consider and debate the text and vote on adoption or rejection in part or whole. Adoption must carry a two thirds (2/3) vote of such board.

Finally, the text shall be presented to the ensuing Colorado Conference, which shall forthwith consider the text. Upon approval of the text in part or whole by two thirds (2/3) vote of said Colorado Conference, the Colorado Commander shall pronounce the text as approved in final form.

ARTICLE X ENACTING AND REPEALING PROVISION

SECTION 1: ENACTMENT and, REPEAL

At such time as this Constitution is approved under the provisions of the pre-existing or predecessor Constitution of this organization, the same shall become the supreme law of the AGIF Colorado, and all other constitutional provisions, by-laws, customs and usage or action of the Colorado Board of Directors or Colorado Conference or At-Large and Local AGIF organizations in the past in conflict herewith shall stand automatically repealed.

GLOSSARY

A AGIF -shall refer to the American GI Forum in a general sense

B. AGIF-US -shall refer more specifically to the national organization, American GI Forum of the United States.

C. GI Forum -shall have the same meaning as "A".

D. This Organization -shall refer to the American GI Forum of Colorado.

E. AGIF - (name of State) Organization, (as in AGIF-Colorado) -shall refer to the particular statewide AGIF organization named therein.

F. AGIF Organization -shall refer to any AGIF group, whether National, State, At-Large, District/Regional, Local or GI Forum, GI Forum Women, GI Forum Youth, Board of Directors, Executive Boards, etc., depending on its contextual use.

G. AGIF Chapter(s) -shall have reference to all AGIF local chapters, including at-large chapters and also shall have specific reference to a particular chapter, whether GI Forum, At-Large, GI Forum Women or GI Forum Youth, when so named.

H. AGIF Colorado Conference or Colorado Conference - shall have reference to what has heretofore been known as the Colorado Conference. Because the gathering offers an opportunity to members of the AGIF from all organization levels for an exchange of ideas on Veterans, social, educational and economic issues, for workshops which include youth leadership, for dialogue oral or written, for floor debate and for the practical use of parliamentary law and procedure, the gathering can rightfully be referred to as the AGIF Annual Colorado Training and Educational Conference which Corporate America can appreciate, but, the gathering may be referred to as simply, the Colorado Conference.,

I. Colorado Executive Board -shall consist of elected AGIF - Colorado officers.

J. AGIF Colorado Organization -shall have reference to the AGIF-CO..

K. AGIF State Organization -shall have referenced to all, or any particular AGIF State Organization, when so named.

L. AGIF Local Organization(s) or Local- shall have reference to all of the various or particular AGIF chapters in the various cities or communities, as well as to any district/regional, if any, or to particular AGIF groups, depending on contextual use.

M. AGIF At-Large Organizations -shall refer to individual chapters within a state, which does not have the required number of GI Forum chapters as set out in Article III, Section 1 of this Constitution.

N. Colorado Office -shall refer to the designated headquarters of the AGIF, wherever situated.

O. Colorado Executive Director -shall refer to the AGIF Colorado Executive Director or to anyone with a similar title or position, whether provisional or permanent.

P. Colorado Board -shall consist of elected AGIF Colorado officers, as well as of all Local Commanders, Local Chairwomen, Local Youth Chairs and one representative from each At-Large organization.

Q. Present and Voting - shall refer to votes actually cast by whatever number of delegates or members are physically present on the floor and qualified to vote under the rules set out in this Constitution and under whatever rules are in affect at any AGIF conference, meeting or gathering, provided such rules are not in conflict herewith. Other definitions may be found in several of the particular Articles set out in the Constitution text.

R. Issue - shall refer to a controversy or matter in dispute, which would ordinarily be settled by a vote taken or by agreement. It shall not refer to an election of a candidate for AGIF office.

ADOPTED on this 18 day of May 2002, in Denver, Colorado.