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# Volunteer Medical Service Corps of the United States Rules of Organization Pamphlet, August, 1918

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# **Volunteer Medical Service Corps of the United States**



## **RULES OF ORGANIZATION**



**COUNCIL OF NATIONAL DEFENSE**

**Approved by the President of the United States**

**WASHINGTON, D. C. :: :: AUGUST, 1918**

## VOLUNTEER MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS OF THE UNITED STATES



THE Volunteer Medical Service Corps of the United States was authorized by the Council of National Defense on January 31, 1918, with a Central Governing Board of 10, Dr. Edward P. Davis, president.

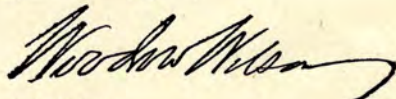
The personnel of this Central Governing Board was increased under the following resolution, adopted under date of August 2, 1918:

*"Be it resolved,* That the present Central Governing Board be increased to a personnel of not exceeding twenty-five."

The revised rules of organization, and the Central Governing Board as enlarged under the above resolution, were authorized by the Council of National Defense on August 5, 1918, and approved by the President of the United States on August 12, 1918, by the following letter:

MY DEAR DR. MARTIN: I have received your letter of August 5, laying before me the matured plan for the reorganized Volunteer Medical Service Corps, of which you ask my approval. This work was undertaken by you under the authority of the Council of National Defense; it has had great success in enrolling members of the medical profession throughout the country into a volunteer corps available to supply the needs of the Army, Navy, and Public Health Service. In cooperation with the General Medical Board of the Council of National Defense, the strong governing board of the reorganized corps will be able to be of increasing service, and through it the finely trained medical profession of the United States is not only made ready for service in connection with the activities already mentioned, but the important work of the Provost Marshal General's Office and the Red Cross will be aided and the problems of the health of the civilian communities of the United States assured consideration. I am very happy to give my approval to the plans which you have submitted, both because of the usefulness of the Volunteer Medical Service Corps and also because it gives me an opportunity to express to you, and through you to the medical profession, my deep appreciation of the splendid service which the whole profession has rendered to the Nation with great enthusiasm from the beginning of the present emergency. The health of the Army and the Navy, the health of the country at large, is due to the cooperation which the public authorities have had from the medical profession; the spirit of sacrifice and service has been everywhere present and the record of the mobilization of the many forces of this great Republic will contain no case of readier response or better service than that which the physicians have rendered.

Cordially and faithfully, yours,



DR. FRANKLIN MARTIN,  
The Advisory Commission,  
Council of National Defense.

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## CENTRAL GOVERNING BOARD

Surg. Gen. WILLIAM C. GORGAS, U. S. A.  
Surg. Gen. WILLIAM C. BRAISTED, U. S. N.  
Surg. Gen. RUPERT BLUE, U. S. P. H. S.  
Provost Marshal Gen. ENOCH H. CROWDER, U. S. A.  
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Provost Marshal Gen. ENOCH H. CROWDER, U. S. A.  
Dr. EDWARD P. DAVIS.  
Dr. FRANKLIN MARTIN.



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Dr. CHARLES E. SAWYER, Secretary.  
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Dr. EMMA WHEAT GILLMORE.  
Dr. FRANKLIN MARTIN.  
Dr. F. F. SIMPSON.

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# RULES OF ORGANIZATION



I. *Name.*—The name of the organization shall be the Volunteer Medical Service Corps of the United States.

II. *Object.*—1. The object of the Corps shall be to mobilize the medical profession in the present emergency in order to provide for the health needs of the military forces and civil population of the country.

2. Services of members will be called for and rendered in response to requests to the Central Governing Board from the Surgeon General of the Army, the Surgeon General of the Navy, the Surgeon General of the Public Health Service, or the General Medical Board of the Council of National Defense.

III. *The Corps.*—The Corps shall consist of all members of the organization. The management of the Corps shall be vested in a Central Governing Board.

IV. *Central Governing Board.*—The Central Governing Board shall be appointed by the Council of National Defense and approved by the President of the United States.

V. *Officers.*—The Central Governing Board shall direct the activities of the Corps and shall select from among its own members a president, a vice president, and a secretary.

VI. *State Governing Boards.*—1. The State Governing Boards shall consist of the members of the State Committees, Medical Section, Council of National Defense. The State Committees shall select, subject to the approval of the Central Governing Board, not less than five of their members who are eligible for election in this Corps to act as the executive committees of the Volunteer Medical Service Corps in the respective States.

2. The duties of the executive committee of the State Governing Board shall be to consider applications for membership in the Corps from the respective States and to submit recommendations regarding these applications to the Central Governing Board.

3. The State Governing Board shall aid in the work of the executive committee of the State and perform such other duties as may hereafter be deemed essential by the Central Governing Board to accomplish the purpose for which the Corps was created.

VII. *Membership.*—1. Every legally qualified physician holding the degree of doctor of medicine from a legally chartered medical school, without reference to age or physical disability, may apply for membership in the Volunteer Medical Service Corps, provided he is not already commissioned in the Government service.

2. Women physicians are eligible.

3. Application for membership in the Volunteer Medical Service Corps shall be made upon blanks furnished for that purpose by the Central Governing Board for proper classification according to training and special fitness.

4. Any member of the Volunteer Medical Service Corps who wishes to change his classification may appeal to the Central Governing Board.

5. The Central Governing Board shall be empowered to elect from time to time to the Volunteer Medical Service Corps members of sanitary engineering and hygienic professions.

VIII. *Method of election.*—1. The members of the Corps shall be graduates in medicine who are licensed to practice medicine in their respective States, who have made application for membership, who meet the qualification requirements that are now or shall from time to time be established by the Central Governing Board, who are eligible as under Article VII above, and who shall be elected to membership in the Corps by the Central Governing Board.

2. Each person elected to membership in the Corps shall be designated as a member of the Volunteer Medical Service Corps.

3. It shall be the duty of each member of the Volunteer Medical Service Corps to notify the Central Governing Board when he accepts a Government commission.

IX. *Insignia.*—1. Members of the Corps shall be authorized and required to wear the insignia of the Corps.

2. The insignia and certificate shall be secured by members of the Corps under such regulations as may be determined upon by the Central Governing Board.

3. The insignia shall not be loaned to any person not a member of the Corps, nor shall it be worn after notification that eligibility to the Volunteer Medical Service Corps has ceased to exist; and it shall be returned on demand of the Central Governing Board.

X. Any member of the Corps may be expelled for conduct which, in the opinion of the Central Governing Board, is derogatory to the dignity of the Corps or inconsistent with its purposes.

XI. The Central Governing Board shall be authorized to provide such regulations as shall from time to time become necessary.

XII. *Authorization.*—The organization, the insignia, and the certificate have been authorized by the Council of National Defense.



# THE VOLUNTEER MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS OF THE UNITED STATES



Volunteer Medical Service Corps organization:

1. Provides means for obtaining quickly men and women for any service required.
2. Furnishes recommendations and necessary credentials to assure the best of medical service both military and civil.
3. Determines beyond question the attitude of the individual toward the war.

## OBJECT OF CORPS

1. Placing on record all medical men and women in the United States.
2. Aiding Army, Navy, and Public Health Service in supplying war medical needs.
3. Providing the best civilian medical service possible.
4. Giving recognition to all who record themselves either in Army, Navy, Public Health activities, or civilian service.

## WORKING PLANS

All matters pertaining to the organization will be under the direction of a Central Governing Board, authorized by the Council of National Defense and approved by the President of the United States, and its affairs will be conducted from the general headquarters of the Volunteer Medical Service Corps at Washington, D. C., under the Council of National Defense.

## OPERATING SYSTEM

1. Central Governing Board of 25.
2. Forty-nine State executive committees.
3. One representative in each county in every State.

NOTE.—(a) All men to be appointed to State and county committees preferably over 55. (b) Each State executive committee to consist of five in the smaller States and one additional member in each of the larger States in proportion to each 1,000 medical inhabitants (to be nominated by State committees, Medical Section, Council of National Defense, from among their own members). (c) Each county of 50,000 population or under should have one representative. All counties having over 50,000 population should

have one additional county representative for each 50,000 population or fraction thereof. All county representatives to be nominated by the State executive committee.

## DUTIES

*Central Governing Board.*—To receive and pass upon all appointments.

*State Governing Boards.*—To receive facts from county representatives and make recommendations to Central Governing Board.

*County Representatives.*—To submit facts to State committees according to advice from Central Governing Board or State executive committees.



