

Procedure for Units that wish to join the Continental Line

All units wishing to join the Continental Line (CL) must obtain Liability Insurance and be prepared to provide a copy of their insurance as proof of coverage. Once a unit has liability insurance coverage they must find an existing CL unit to act as their sponsor. The CL Sponsor Unit is usually (but not always) a unit in the same geographic area as the new unit so that the two units may work together at local events.

The Sponsor Unit must be of the same type as the new unit (i.e. artillery sponsors artillery, cavalry sponsors cavalry, rifle sponsors rifle and line unit sponsor line unit.) In many cases the Sponsor Unit provides help and advice to the new unit, covering areas like authenticity, drill, and safety. The Sponsor Unit can also provide information about the Continental Line organization and how it operates. The Sponsor unit will supply the applying unit with a signed letter from the Sponsor Unit's commander or president stating that they are sponsoring the applying unit for membership in the continental line. This must be submitted to the Continental Line adjutant prior to the Continental Line annual meeting.

At the next Continental Line Annual Meeting, a representative of both the new unit and the Sponsor Unit must attend. At the appropriate time the representatives of both units will be asked to address the meeting. The Sponsor Unit will briefly introduce the new unit, and the new unit should provide a brief history of the historic unit, as well as describe the modern unit. (The presentation by both should last no more than 5 – 10 minutes.)

The purpose of this introduction is to make all CL member units aware of the new unit. It is also an opportunity for the new unit to become familiar with the CL organization, and meet many members.

Once the new member has been introduced at the CL Annual Meeting, the unit is designated an "Applicant Unit." As an Applicant Unit they are entitled to attend Continental Line sanctioned events as long as they maintain their liability insurance coverage, and provide proof of that coverage, and their Sponsor Unit is also in attendance. When their insurance policy expires (usually on an annual basis) all units must submit a copy of the renewed policy to the CL Adjutant within 30 days of renewal.

The Applicant Unit should attend at least one, and preferably more, Continental Line events in the year after they obtain applicant status. This allows other CL units to work with, and observe, the Applicant Unit "on the field." In addition, the applicant unit should provide his Department Coordinator and the Continental Line Adjutant a copy of their event schedule for the year. This is to ensure that their sponsor is present with them at their events and so that other units can be aware of the applicant unit's presence and observe them on the field.

At the next Annual Meeting representatives of both the Sponsor Unit, and the Applicant Unit must attend the "New Business" portion of the meeting. Both units will again give a

brief statement in front of the meeting. Member units may make comments and observations about the Applicant Unit if they wish. Any specific concerns about the Applicant Unit should be brought up during this discussion so that the Applicant Unit has an opportunity to address the concerns. Once the discussion ends, the Applicant Unit representative will be asked to step outside the meeting room and the CL members will vote – yes, or no – to give the new unit full Membership in the CL.

If an Applicant Unit is not able to attend either their first CL meeting, or their second, their application for membership (either Applicant or Full) will be postponed to the following year. Once a new unit is made Full Members in the CL, it must continue to provide proof of insurance coverage annually by providing a copy of their insurance form and a completed copy of the annual Census Form.

Here is an outline of the process:

1. New unit obtains unit liability insurance. (Name of unit should appear on Insurance Form.)
2. Locate a “like” CL Sponsor Unit (for instance, an artillery sponsor for a new artillery unit) and provide the CL Adjutant with copy of the unit’s insurance form, census information, a signed letter from their sponsor unit and event schedule for the next year before the Continental Line annual meeting.
3. A representative from both the Sponsor Unit and the new unit must attend CL Annual Meeting to obtain status as Applicant Unit
4. Participate in CL events as Applicant Unit with the Sponsor Unit.
5. A representative from both the Sponsor Unit and the Applicant Unit must attend the next CL Annual Meeting where the membership will vote to accept the Applicant Unit as a Full Member Unit.
6. Maintain insurance and provide copy of insurance form to CL Adjutant annually, along with annual Census Form.