

Great Lakes International Antique Fire Apparatus Association

The Great Lakes Chapter
Society for the Preservation and Appreciation
of Antique Motor Fire Apparatus in America

Constitution and By-Laws

Great Lakes International
Antique Fire Apparatus Association
P.O. Box 180755
Utica, Michigan 48318-0755

CONSTITUTION and BYLAWS

Article I – Name

The name of this organization shall be GREAT LAKES INTERNATIONAL ANTIQUE FIRE APPARATUS ASSOCIATION, GLIAFAA herein referred to as the Association.

Article II – Purpose

The purpose for which this organization is formed are:

- 1) To promote and foster a spirit of friendliness and cooperation among its members, of the history and development of the fire fighting equipment apparatus.
- 2) To preserve historic fire fighting equipment and to display apparatus in parades, meets and musters.
- 3) To institute and present fire prevention and education displays and programs.
- 4) To aid each other in the rehabilitation of vintage fire equipment.
- 5) To set up and maintain Association meeting facilities.
- 6) To perform other activities in the public interest as the membership shall direct.

Article III – Membership

- 1) ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS: Any fire department or other organization interested in vintage fire apparatus, as defined by the Board of Directors, shall be eligible for membership and shall designate one of their group members to be their representative. Group membership entitles the organization to one vote which shall be cast by the Group Representative or other member designated by the Group. Only organization members having individual or family membership may hold office in the Association. The group members may attend and participate in meetings, drills, parades and other functions of the Association.
- 2) INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS: Any person who owns vintage fire apparatus, collects historic fire equipment, or is interested in the purposes, for which this Association was formed, may make application of Association membership. The membership carries one vote for persons over 18 years of age.
- 3) FAMILY MEMBERS: A family unit of two (2) or more immediate members who owns vintage fire apparatus or is interested in the purposes for which the Association was formed. This membership carries two (2) votes (spouses only) for the entire unit but permits all members of the unit to participate in all Association activities.
- 4) HONORARY MEMBERS: An honorary member shall be a person who has performed some service by the Association or a person whom the membership feels worthy of this membership for the betterment of the Association. An honorary member shall not be eligible to vote, hold office, or be required to pay dues. Honorary membership may be granted by a two thirds (2/3rds) vote of the membership attending a regular meeting upon recommendation of the Board of Directors.

- 5) JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP: Is a minor up to the age of seventeen (17). Membership will expire on December 31 of the junior member's seventeenth (17th) birthday. Junior membership dues will be fifteen dollars (\$15.00) yearly, which will include a t-shirt. Junior members may attend any GLIAFAA event. Junior members are not eligible to vote at any meeting.
- 6) SPAAMFAA MEMBERSHIP:
 - a) The Great Lakes International Antique Fire Apparatus Association, having been chartered as the 'Great Lakes Chapter' of the national Society for the Preservation and Appreciation of Antique Motor Fire Apparatus in America, and in compliance with the Society's by laws, requires that all Board of Directors of this Association also be current members of the national Society.
 - b) Any member of SPAMFAA residing within the territory of operation of the Association is eligible for the association membership, although membership is voluntary.

Article IV – Dues

- 1) The amount of dues shall be determined by the Board of Directors. All dues become payable by January 31st. Any members in arrears for more than two (2) months shall be dropped from the membership in the Association.
- 2) Any members of this Association who is discharged for non payment of dues, or expelled from the Association for misconduct, shall immediately turn over to the Treasurer any and all property belonging to the Association.

Article V – Declaration of Policy

- 1) Membership obligations in the Association shall in no way conflict with the regular duties of any member who belongs to a volunteer, paid on call, or paid fire department.
- 2) The Association shall not participate, as a group, in any commercial or political activity.

Article VI – Meetings

- 1) There will be five (5) general membership meetings each year scheduled on the third Sunday in the odd numbered months except for the month of July. The month of July will be reserved for the annual muster on the last full weekend of the month where a special board meeting may be convened if necessity arises. Any exceptions will be decided by the Board of Directors, such as special meetings or to change from the third Sunday to accommodate special celebrations, holidays, events, musters, or mini-musters.
- 2) Twenty (20) voting members shall constitute as quorum to transact business at any regular or special meeting.

Article VII – Order of Business

- 1) Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and playing of O Canada.
- 2) Calling of the roll.
- 3) President's introduction of guests or speakers.
- 4) Reading of the minutes of the previous meeting.
- 5) Treasurer's report
- 6) Membership Secretary's report,
- 7) Reading of communications and bills.
- 8) Reports of committees.
- 9) Introduction of new members.
- 10) Election of Officers.
- 11) Unfinished business.
- 12) New business.
- 13) Good and welfare.
- 14) Adjournment.
- 15) Program.

Article VIII – Officers

- 1) The officers of this Association shall be:
 - a) President
 - b) Vice President
 - c) Recording Secretary
 - d) Treasurer
 - e) Membership Secretary
 - f) Six (6) Directors
 - g) The Immediate Past President and Newsletter Editor shall be considered ex-officio officers.

The above named officers shall constitute the Board of Directors of the Association.

- 2) Eligibility for office shall be limited to those who have been members of GLIAFAA for a minimum of one (1) year and are members in good standing of SPAAMFAA prior to election, or subsequent appointment to office or Board membership.
- 3)
 - a) Seven (7) officers shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Board of Directors.
 - b) Officers shall be elected for one (1) year terms.
 - c) Directors shall be elected for three (3) year terms, two persons to be elected each year.
 - d) Absence for three (3) Board meetings per calendar year, by a member of the Board, shall be deemed for removal from the Board of Directors. Such removal shall require a vote of majority to a quorum of the Board of Directors. The dismissed Board member shall be notified in writing by the President.

- e) Any officers or director may be removed from office for nonfeasance, malfeasance or misfeasance, for conduct detrimental to the interest of the association, or for refusal to render reasonable assistance in carrying out its purposes. Such removal shall require a vote of majority of a quorum of the Board of Directors.
- f) Any officer or director proposed to be removed shall be entitled to at least five (5) days notice in writing by mail of the meeting of the Board of Directors while such removal is to be voted upon and shall be entitled to appear before and be heard by the Board at such meeting.
- g) The Board of Directors may use the Associations website, social media, email or other electronic methods to communicate news and information to members.

Article IX – Officer’s Duties

- 1) PRESIDENT: Shall preside in the capacity of President at all meetings of the Association and be the chairperson of the Board of Directors. The President shall appoint all committees.
- 2) VICE -PRESIDENT: Shall preside in the capacity of the President in the absence of the President. The Vice-President shall act as an advisor to the President.
- 3) RECORDING SECRETARY: Shall act as Secretary for regular membership meetings, Board of Director meetings, and answer all Association correspondence and perform other duties directed by the Association President. The Recording Secretary shall keep record of al votes cast in each election until the next election.
- 4) TREASURER: Shall collect all monies of the Association and be custodian of same. The Treasurer shall pay all authorized bills presented for payment. The Treasurer shall render an accounting of finances of the Association at all meetings stated in Article VII (5).
- 5) MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Shall receive all incoming dues and forward said dues to the Treasurer and maintain all membership cards. The Membership Secretary shall maintain and publish membership rosters periodically.
- 6) DIRECTORS: Shall be assigned duties of coordinating drills, events, musters, parades, etc. and manage apparatus owned or acquired by the Association.
- 7) NEWSLETTER EDITOR (appointed): Shall be present, or have a representative, at all Association board meetings and official activities at which the Association is officially represented. The newsletter shall be published as often, and at such times, as the Editor has important or sufficient information to report to the membership.
- 8) GENERAL:
 - a) The Board of Directors shall act as auditors and examine the Treasurer’s books annually.
 - b) In the event of a vacancy of any elected officer, excluding the office of President, the unexpired term shall be offered to the first runner-up of any elected office from the previous ballot. If this person declines, the vacancy shall be appointed by the Board of Directors.

- c) In the event of removal or incapacity of the President, the Vice President shall assume the office until the next election of officers.
- d) All officers and directors are expected to attend the annual muster and be able to perform any duties designated by the President.

Article X – Conduct and Duties of Members

- 1)
 - a) Intoxication of a member of the Association while in line of march, while driving an apparatus or riding on an apparatus, shall be sufficient cause for dismissal of such member for the Association.
 - b) Any member reported in writing to the Board of Directors of the Association for any actions which would severely damage the name and good standing of the Association shall be informed in writing of the charges made against them by registered mail prior to the next meeting of the Association and shall have an opportunity to state their side of the action prior to presentation of the charges to the membership for dismissal actions.
 - c) If no explanation is forthcoming within thirty (30) days, dismissal actions shall be brought at the next regularly scheduled meeting.
 - d) Dismissal from the Association shall take two-thirds (2/3rds) affirmative vote of the membership present at the meeting, with the charges submitted in writing by the Board of Directors.
- 2) Attendance of Organizational, Individual, Family and Honorary members at drills, musters, parades and demonstrations shall be encouraged at all times. Drills, musters, parades and demonstrations are to be conducted solely for the purpose of member training and instruction and exhibition and instruction in the public interest.
- 3) All members shall be permitted to actively participate, and any activities which may result in injury to members or spectators, or shall reflect negatively upon the Association of the fire service, shall be prohibited.
- 4) The following activities shall be subject to the following rules and regulations.
 - a) Activities involving the use of apparatus shall be limited, through the necessarily confined, to those indigenous to the fire service or at which the presence of fire apparatus is not unusual.
 - b) A Safety Officer shall, upon formal appointment, supervise the handling and operation of each apparatus and equipment being used and the conduct and safety of members riding thereon or using same, making certain that the general rules and regulations as set forth in this section are followed.
 - c) No apparatus shall be used in Association sponsored functions unless it shall be properly and adequately insured, in safe operating condition in the opinion of the Board of Directors and of a clean, neat presentable appearance.
 - d) Apparatus shall not, under any circumstances, be operated in excess of posted speed regulations or in any manner deemed by the supervising Safety

Officer to be imprudent, dangerous or unsafe. Anytime apparatus is in 'reverse', a spotter must be used.

e) The drinking of intoxicating beverages upon the apparatus, whether or not it shall be in motion, shall be strictly prohibited. Violation of this provision shall result in immediate suspension.

f) No members shall conduct themselves in such a manner as to do injury to themselves or others or in such a manner as would reflect negatively upon the Association or upon the fire service. Violation of this provision shall result in immediate suspension.

Article XI – Reinstatement

Application for reinstatement shall be submitted in writing to the Board of Directors and it shall require a two-thirds (2/3rds) affirmative vote of the Board of Directors and payment of all arrears to become affective.

Article XII – Committees

The President shall appoint all committees. No committees shall involve the Association in any commitment whatsoever until so authorized by a two-thirds (2/3rds) vote in the affirmative of the Board of Directors. The President shall be a member of all committees.

Article XIII – Standing Committees

- 1) CONSTITUTION and BY-LAWS: It shall review the Constitution and By-Laws regularly and submit changes to the Board of Directors as necessary.
- 2) FUNDRAISING: It shall be in charge of the revenue producing operations.
- 3) OPERATIONS: It shall be in charge of coordinating all parties, musters, meets and other Association sponsored activities.
- 4) RULES and REGULATIONS: It shall be responsible for drawing up and maintaining a suggested set of rules and regulations to be applied to various Association functions.
- 5) NOMINATIONS and ELECTIONS: It shall be responsible for elections. The Committee shall be put into operation at the May meeting each year.
- 6) MUSTER SITE: It shall be responsible to investigate all future muster sites and report to the Board of Directors their findings.

Article XIV – Parades, Meets and Musters:

The Board of Directors shall approve the Association's participation in any activities.

Article XV

Roberts Rules of Order shall decide all questions not governed by the Constitution and By-Laws.

Article XVI – Amendments

- 1) Amendments to the Constitution and By-laws shall require a two-third (2/3rds) affirmative vote of the voting members present at a regular meeting to become effective. They shall be submitted in writing to the Board of Directors and voting members present at a regular meeting, read and discussed at the next meeting and held over to the next regular meeting for a vote. The Recording Secretary shall include as part of the meeting notices, a notification that amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws will be proposed and/or acted upon at the particular meeting.
- 2) Any vote taken for the purposes of election of Officers to amend the Constitution and By-Laws shall be by written ballot, with absentee privileges.

Article XVII – Nominations and Elections

- 1) The Nomination and Election Committee shall be put into operation at the May meeting.
- 2) Nomination of office may be made by the Nomination and Election Committee and from the floor of the regularly schedule September meeting. Nominations are to be closed at the conclusion of the September meeting.
- 3) The elections will be posted and deemed as final during the November meeting. All elected officers will be sworn in and will assume office at the end of the meeting.
- 4) Ballots are to be distributed at the November meeting to each eligible voter. Absentee ballots will be available by request and only be request of the Nomination and Election Committee after the September meeting. Absentee ballots must be received back (hand, postal, courier delivery or electronic submission) no later the seven (7) days prior to the November meeting.

Approved by the membership November 16, 2014.

