

Constitution and By-Laws of the N.Y.S. Muzzle Loaders Association, Inc.

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this organization shall be the "New York State Muzzle Loaders Association, Inc."

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

Organized in 1977, this Association has been formed to provide a statewide banner, under which all individual and groups concerned with the promotion, protection and improved communication relating to all sports, and variations thereof, involving the use of muzzle-loading fire arms may be unified. Further, its purpose is to accurately represent the wishes of said sportsmen to our elected officials, and any state or national organization this group may choose to affiliate with.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Any person interested in the collection and/or use of muzzle loading firearms may become a member of this organization by payment of the stipulated annual dues.

Any muzzle-loading club wishing to support the unity of voice this organization represents may become a N.Y.S.M.L.A. Affiliate Club by payment of the stipulated annual affiliation fee.

Both Individual Members and Affiliated Clubs shall be kept informed of the progress, activities, and endeavors of this Association by means of a quarterly newsletter, to be known as the "Group Tight'ner." This shall be the official publication of the N.Y.S.M.L.A. All annual individual memberships and club affiliations shall be in effect for one calendar year from the month in which they are initiated.

ARTICLE IV: DUES AND FEES

The amount of individual membership dues and club affiliation fees shall be established by the N.Y.S.M.L.A. Board of Directors. The Association fiscal year shall run from the Fall Annual Meeting, held each September, up until the next Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND ELECTIONS

SECTION ONE—The government and direction of the N.Y.S.M.L.A. shall be vested in a Board of Directors which shall consist of a President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer (officers); and eight (8) Directors, each of whom shall be elected to a two-year term on a rotation basis (four elected one year, the remaining four elected the next year, etc.) Of the four (4) Directors elected each year, one must reside in DEC Regions 1, 2, or 3; one in 4 or 5; one in Regions 6 or 7; and one in Regions 8 or 9. In the event that a candidate cannot be found for one of the Regional Directorships, a Director-at-large will be elected. Seven (7) Board members shall constitute a quorum of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall have the power to:

- A) fill all vacancies on the Board
- B) adopt rules for conducting the business of the Association
- C) insure and maintain an affiliate relationship between this Association, the N.Y.S. Conservation Council, Inc. and the N.Y.S. Rifle & Pistol Association, Inc.
- D) replace any Officer, for the balance of the Association year, who is unable or unwilling to perform his or her duties as described herein.

SECTION TWO—The Board of Directors shall be elected by the adult general membership at the Fall Annual Meeting, held each September.

SECTION THREE—No person may serve as an Officer, with the exception of Secretary and Treasurer, for more than five (5) consecutive one-year terms. No person may serve as a Director for more than three (3) consecutive two-year terms. No person may hold more than one elected office at a time.

SECTION FOUR—Board of Directors meetings shall be held at least quarterly. Written minutes shall be recorded of all Board meetings, and copies of said minutes shall be distributed to all Board Members following these meetings, and also, upon written request, to any Member in good standing or Affiliated Club.

SECTION FIVE—A Nominating Committee consisting of five (5) members in good standing shall be appointed by the President at the Spring N.Y.S.M.L.A. meeting, held each May, whose duty it shall be to research and develop a recommended slate of Board of Directors nominees from the paid-up membership for the next Association year. Among other criteria, this Committee shall, to the best of its ability, equalize said slate by considering the geographic location and specialized interests (benchrest, primitive, historic, etc.) of proposed nominees in order to provide a truly diversified, balanced and representative statewide slate. The Chairperson of this Committee shall report the Committee's recommendations, both verbally to the general membership and in writing to the Secretary, just prior to the Fall Annual Meeting held each September. Nominations from the floor may then be made by any adult member in good

standing. The elections shall be conducted, by a neutral party, by office, starting with the Presidency. Voting shall be by ballot when necessary.

ARTICLE VI: GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

A minimum of two (2) General Membership Meetings shall be held during each Association year. These shall be on the Saturday evening of the Spring Meeting, held each year during the month of May, and on the Saturday evening of the Fall Meeting, held each year during the month of September. All members and Affiliated Clubs shall be given at least ten (10) days written notice of all General Membership Meetings. This may be accomplished by announcement in the "Group Tight'ner," or otherwise. Special meetings may be called at the discretion of the Board of Directors. The Fall Annual Meeting shall be held, unless financial constraints or other consequences do not allow, pending the prior acquisition of written permission from the Town of Ohio Board of 6 Supervisors, at the Town of Ohio (Herkimer County) Recreation Field, the birthplace of the NYSMLA. Said permission shall be sought by written request of the President to the Town of Ohio Board of Supervisors, (copy to Town of Ohio Recreation Commission), Star Route, Cold Brook, NY 13324, and shall be mailed prior to January first of the year in which said Fall meeting is to be held. Five (5) percent of the General Membership in good standing shall constitute a quorum at all General Membership Meetings.

ARTICLE VII: DUTIES OF OFFICERS

The **President** shall preside at all General Membership and Board of Director's Meetings. He shall appoint all committees, and appoint Delegate/Representatives to the state and/or national organizations with whom the N.Y.S.M.L.A. is affiliated. He shall be one of the officers who may sign the checks or drafts of the Association. He shall have such powers as may be reasonably construed as belonging to the chief executive of any organization. He shall and must appoint an audit committee of three (3) bona fide members of the Association, other than Board Members, and such committee shall report at the Fall Annual Meeting.

The **First Vice President** shall, in the event of the absence or inability of the President to exercise his office, become acting President of the organization with all the rights, privileges, and powers as if he had been duly elected President.

The **Second Vice President** shall progress and be responsible accordingly.

The **Secretary** shall receive and process all memberships, individual and affiliated clubs, and keep an accurate record thereof. Further, at the appropriate time, the Secretary shall notify each individual member and affiliated club that the renewal of their N.Y.S.M.L.A. membership is due, and solicit said renewals. The Secretary shall keep the minutes and records of the Association in appropriate books, and shall be sent a copy, for official records, of any correspondence instituted by an Officer as part of their official duties and a copy of any replies to said correspondence. Any records, supplies or equipment purchased or compiled by the Association for its use, and any article given or awarded to the Association, shall be kept in the possession of the Secretary, and shall, upon determination of a successor to that office, transfer these items in total to said successor within ten (10) days.

The **Treasurer** shall have the care and custody of all monies belonging to the Association and shall be solely responsible for such monies or securities of the Association. He/She shall cause to be deposited in a regular Business Bank, Trust Company, or Savings Bank, the funds of the Association. He/She must be one of the officers who shall sign checks or drafts of the Association. No special funds may be set aside that shall make it unnecessary for the Treasurer to sign the checks issued upon it. He/She shall not make purchases without an approval vote of the Board of Directors. He/She shall be required to submit at each Board and general meeting a written account of the finances of the Association, and such reports shall then be transferred to the Secretary for inclusion in the official records. He/She shall exercise all duties incident to the office of Treasurer. He/She shall keep a full and complete record of all money received and paid, out, and render an annual financial account at the end of the fiscal year. The Treasurer shall cause to be transferred to his successor all Association financial records and property in his/her possession within ten (10) days of the determination of said successor, and shall assist in the transfer of any and all Association banking accounts and legal papers to his/her successor.

No Officer, Director, or Presidential Appointee, by reason of his/her office in the Association, shall be entitled to receive any salary or compensation. However, nothing herein shall be contained to prevent any of the above from receiving reimbursement for duties performed as legally prescribed, and approved by affirmative vote of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VIII: INDEBTEDNESS

No indebtedness shall be incurred beyond the amount in the Association Treasury.

ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENTS

This Constitution and By-Laws of the N.Y.S.M.L.A. shall take effect upon receipt by the Secretary of its original printing containing the signatures of the Association's Charter Officers who conceived and developed this Association on April 2, 1977.

Any adult individual member in good standing may propose amendments to the N.Y.S.M.L.A. Constitution and By-Laws by submitting same, in writing, to the Association Secretary, and said amendments shall take effect and become a part of this document following: A) an affirmative vote on the amendment by the Board of Directors; B) its publication and distribution as part of the "Group Tight'ner;" and C) the receipt, by the Secretary, of an affirmative response to a mailed ballot on the amendment from at least 75% of the adult individual members in good standing, respectively.

A copy of this document shall be available to any member or affiliate in good standing upon written request to the Secretary. ~

ARTICLE X: PROCEDURES

In all matters not covered by this Constitution and By-Laws, Robert's Rules of Order shall prevail and shall be the parliamentary authority of the Association.

WL/rl 1978

Amended 1981; Amended 1983; Amended 2007