

NYSMLA 2017 Proposed Constitution and By-laws revisions

CONSTITUTION and BY-LAWS of the NEW YORK STATE MUZZLELOADERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

ARTICLE I: NAME

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

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE & OBJECTIVES

Organized in 1977, this Association has been formed to provide a statewide banner, under which, all individuals 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/**sportswomen** 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 New York State Muzzle Loaders Association (NYSMLA). All individual memberships and club affiliations shall be in effect for one calendar year from the month in which they are initiated.

ARTICLE IV: DUES & FEES

The amount of individual membership dues and club affiliation fees shall be established by the New York State Muzzle Loaders Association 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 & ELECTIONS

SECTION ONE - The government and direction of the New York State Muzzle Loaders Association 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)~~ **eight (8)** Directors elected each year, **one two (2)** must reside in DEC Regions 1, 2, or 3; **one two (2)** in 4 or 5; **one two (2)** in Regions 6 or 7; and **one two (2)** 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 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 New York State Conservation Council Inc, and the NYS Rifle and Pistol Association Inc,
- D) Replace any Officer **or Director** 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 Meeting.

SECTION THREE - No person may serve as an officer **or Director** with the exception of the Secretary and Treasurer, for more than ~~five (5)~~ **three (3)** consecutive **one two**-year terms. No person may serve as 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 on a timely basis, and to any member or affiliated club, in good standing, upon written request.

SECTION FIVE - A Nominating Committee, consisting of **five not less than three (3)** members in good standing shall be appointed by the President at the Spring New York State Muzzle Loaders Association meeting, held each May, whose duty it shall be to research and develop a recommended slate of Candidates for election to the Board of Directors from the paid-up membership for the next Association year. **No sitting Board member may serve on the Nominating Committee.** Among other criteria, this Committee shall, to the best of its ability, equalize said slate by considering the geographic location and specialized interests, therefore bench-rest, primitive, historic, etc of the proposed nominees in order to provide a truly diversified, balanced and representative statewide slate. The Chairperson of this Committee shall report their recommendations, both verbally to the general membership and in writing to the Secretary, just prior to the Fall Meeting and **will be the last order of business.** Nominations from the floor may then be made by any adult member in good standing. The elections will be conducted by a neutral party by office, starting with the Presidency. Voting shall be by ballot when necessary. **The successful candidates will begin their terms after the meeting at which they are elected.**

SECTION SIX - **A special meeting may be called by any Board member by written notice to the Secretary. Said notice must contain the specific purpose for such meeting. The Secretary must then provide written notice of the meeting to each Board member. Said notice must be given ten (10) days prior to the meeting and must specify the purpose of said meeting.**

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A special meeting is hereby restricted to considering only its designated purpose regardless of associated issues. One officer must be present. Detailed minutes must be kept and distributed to the Secretary as part of the official records of the Association. The minutes will be read at the next membership meeting.

ARTICLE VI: GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

A minimum of two (2) General Membership Meetings shall be held each Association year. These shall be on Saturday evening of the Spring Meeting, held each year during the month of May, and on 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 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, ~~was originally~~ 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 THE OFFICERS

The **President** shall preside at all General Membership Meetings and Board of Director's Meetings. **They** shall appoint all committees, and appoint Delegates/Representatives to the state and/or national organizations with whom the NYSMLA is affiliated. They shall be one of the officers who may sign the checks or drafts of the Association. **They** shall have such powers as may be reasonably construed as belonging to the chief executive of any organization. **They** 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 Meeting.

The **First Vice-President** shall, in the event of the absence or inability of the President to exercise **their** office, become acting President of the Association with all rights, privileges, and powers as if **they** 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 members and affiliated clubs 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 Associations in appropriate books, and shall be sent a copy, for official records, any correspondence instituted by an Officer as part of their official duties, including a copy of any responses. 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 it 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. **They** shall cause to be deposited in a regular Business Bank, Trust Company, or Savings Bank, the funds of the Association. **They** 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 thereon. **They** shall not make purchases without an approval vote of The Board of Directors. **They** 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. **They** shall exercise all duties incident to the office of Treasurer. **They** shall keep a full and a 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/her successor all Association financial records and property in **their** possession within ten (10) days of the determination of said successor, and shall assist in the transfer of any 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.

ARTICLES IX: - AMENDMENTS

This Constitution and By-Laws of the New York State Muzzle Loaders Association 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 New York State Muzzle Loaders Association Constitution and By-Laws by submitting same, in writing, to the Association Secretary, and said amendments shall take effect and become part of this document following:

- A) an affirmative vote on the amendment by the Board of Directors

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- B) its publication and distribution as part of the “Group Tight’ner”,
- C) the receipt, by the Secretary, of ~~an affirmative~~ **a negative** response to a mailed ballot on the amendment from **no more than** ~~at least 75%~~ **25% of the** adult individual members. **Mailed ballot will be considered “as printed” in the Group Tight’ner.**

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, Roberts’s Rules of Order shall prevail and shall be the parliamentary authority of the Association.

WL/rl 1978

Amended 1981; Amended 1983; Amended 2007; Proposed Amended Revision 2017

President: _____	Date: _____
1 st Vice President: _____	Date: _____
2nd Vice President: _____	Date: _____
Secretary: _____	Date: _____
Treasurer: _____	Date: _____
Director: _____	Date: _____
Director: _____	Date: _____
Director: _____	Date: _____
Director: _____	Date: _____
Director: _____	Date: _____
Director: _____	Date: _____
Director: _____	Date: _____
Director: _____	Date: _____

Notes:

General Changes: 2017

- added Sportswomen where sportsmen are stated
- Changed use of “He” and “He/She” to be gender neutral by inserting “They” and “Their”