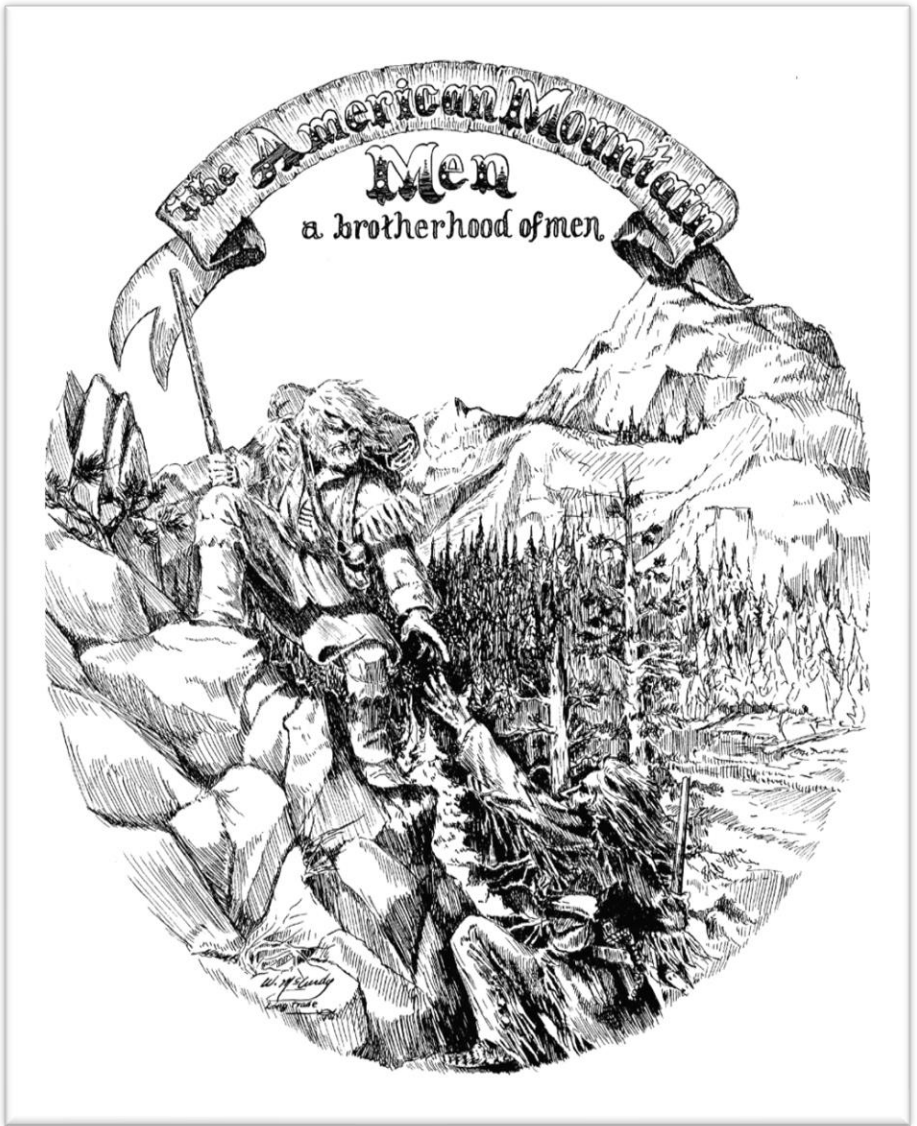


AMMM

BY-LAWS, STANDING RULES, & Articles of Incorporation 2025

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Compiled by
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Capitaine



Artwork by Walt McCurdy AMM #557 Past Capitaine

The AMERICAN MOUNTAIN MEN

AMM

**Bylaws, Standing Rules, &
Articles of Incorporation**

2025

Compiled by
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Capitaine

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A Haversack Book



TABLE OF CONTENTS

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I —Methods of and Requirements for ACCEPTANCE into MEMBERSHIP.	1
ARTICLE II --TYPES of MEMBERSHIP.	2
ARTICLE III -- NATIONAL ASSOCIATION DIRECTORS, Their DUTIES and TERM of OFFICE.	6
ARTICLE IV -- THE GRAND COUNCIL Its DUTIES and POWERS.	8
ARTICLE V --BALLOTS and ELECTION of OFFICERS.	9
ARTICLE VI --DISMISSAL of MEMBERS.	10
ARTICLE VII --ASSOCIATION PUBLICATIONS.	10
ARTICLE VIII --ASSOCIATION MUSEUM and RESEARCH CENTER	11
ARTICLE IX --OTHER STAFFS and SPECIAL COMMITTEES	12
ARTICLE X --FINANCE	12
ARTICLE XI --CHAPTERS of this ASSOCIATION.	14
ARTICLE XII --ASSOCIATION LIVING HISTORY PROGRAM	14
ARTICLE XIII --NATIONAL and AREA RENDEZVOUS	15
ARTICLE XIV --ASSOCIATION STANDING RULES.	15
ARTICLE XV --ASSOCIATION MOTTO and COLORS.	16
ARTICLE XVI --ASSOCIATION CODE.	16
ARTICLE XVII --GAME LAW COMPLIANCE.	17
ARTICLE XVIII --AMENDMENTS or ADDITIONS to these BY-LAWS.	17
Code of the Mountains	18

STANDING RULES

ARTICLE I. PROBATIONARY MEMBERSHIP.	19
ARTICLE II. REGULAR MEMBERSHIP.	20
ARTICLE III. HIVERANNO MEMBERSHIP.	21
ARTICLE IV. SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES	24
ARTICLE V. THE GRAND COUNCIL, ITS DUTIES AND POWERS	27
ARTICLE VI. TERRITORIES AND BRIGADES.	27
ARTICLE VII. ASSOCIATION PUBLICATIONS	28
ARTICLE VIII. ASSOCIATION MUSEUM AND RESEARCH CENTER.	29
ARTICLE IX. OTHER STAFFS AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES	29
ARTICLE X. FINANCE.	32
ARTICLE XI. CHAPTERS OF THIS ASSOCIATION	34
ARTICLE XII. GUIDELINES FOR CONDUCTING NATIONAL AND TERRITORIAL RENDEZVOUS	35
ARTICLE XIII. STANDARDS OF CONDUCT AND AUTHENTICITY AT AMM NATIONAL AND TERRITORIAL RENDEZVOUS	38
ARTICLE XIV. TRADEMARKS	39
ARTICLE XV. ELECTION GUIDELINES.	39
ARTICLE XVI. AMM PROPERTY.	42
ARTICLE XVII. AMM LOGO & EMBLEM.	42
ARTICLE XVIII. AMM WEBSITE.	44
Logo and Emblem	45
Articles of Incorporation	46

The *American Mountain Men* is an association of individuals dedicated to the preservation of the traditions and ways of our nation's greatest, most daring explorers and pioneers, the Mountain Men; to the actual conservation of our nation's remaining natural wilderness and wildlife; and to the ability of our members to survive alone, under any circumstances, using only what nature has to offer. Although we are now world-wide, we are not a large group. We are not interested in the quantity of members; we are interested in the quality of members. Our members are best and proud of it.

The American Mountain Men's primary characteristic is, first and foremost, to be a Brotherhood of Men. In this fraternal concept is embedded the desire of all its members to teach, share, and learn the arts and skills of the original American mountain men, but deeper still, is the desire to be upon the trail, on lake or river, in mountains, plains or woods, as brothers, sharing this great experience. The sense of camaraderie and the shared endeavor are more important, always, than individual gain. These are the goals and the founding wisdom of A.M.M. To keep alive the skills of the freest men our great nation ever birthed; to preserve his abilities and emulate his way of life as historically accurately as possible.

American Mountain Men BYLAWS

ARTICLE I

Methods of and Requirements for ACCEPTANCE into MEMBERSHIP

- A. Membership in this association is by invitation only. Invitations to join will be issued only after the prospective member has:
1. Been nominated by at least two (2) members holding Regular membership, GrayBeard membership or a combination of both, or by one (1) member holding Hiveranno membership.
 2. Been interviewed IN PERSON by the member(s) making the nomination.
 3. Been approved by the Territory Segundo.
- B. To be eligible for membership a prospective member must:
1. Be eighteen (18) years of age or older.
 - a. Fifteen (15) years of age if the application is for a Junior type membership.
 2. Have at least one muzzle-loading firearm with fixed sights or one hand made bow of a type and style used by American Indians. Said bow must have a pull of no less than thirty (30) pounds.
 3. Have made at least a partial study of the lives and methods of the Mountain Men during the 1800-1840 era.
 4. Show that he is willing to take an active part in the activities of this association.
- C. All nominations must be in writing, listing what is known of the prospective member (interest, experience, etc.) plus any other interest which will help determine eligibility all letters of nomination must have printed on them the name, card number, membership type, and state of member(s) making nomination. At least one member making the nomination must sign the letter.
- D. All nominations must be reviewed and recommended by the Brigade Boosway, then approved by the Territory Segundo. The nominee shall be accepted as a probationary member on the Territory Segundo's approval.

BY-LAWS 2025

1. The association Capitaine may approve nominees in place of any Segundo. All Foreign members must be approved by the association Capitaine.

ARTICLE II

TYPES of MEMBERSHIP

A. Membership in this association shall be divided into seven (7) types:

1. **PROBATIONARY:** Each new member must serve one year as a probationary member. During this probationary period he is expected to make or purchase all the necessary accouterments and clothing traditionally used by MOUNTAIN MEN during the 1800-1840 era, to participate in at least one primitive camp out which must last at least two (2) full days and one night, and to show by activities of his own that he has an active interest in this association. Failure to meet these requirements during the probationary period will result in the probationary member being dropped from the association. The probationary member may hold no national association office or vote in any national association election. All other activities, except where noted in these by-laws, are open to the probationary member.

2. **REGULAR MEMBER-** To become a Bossloper, a man must have completed at least one full year as a Probationary member. From the list of Hiveranno requirements (Article III, below), he must complete at least 10 requirements. The selection of which 10 requirements to do are the Pilgrim's choice, except that requirements 1 and 2 are mandatory, and requirement 16 is not applicable for advancement to Bossloper.

1. Must have a full set of hand-cut and -sewn clothing and handmade accoutrements. These must be researched for authenticity of the 1800-1840 period and be of a type which would have been seen on men in, or moving to, the Rocky Mountains. Period weapons, saddles, traps, blankets, and other accoutrements that would normally have required the work of a specialized

craftsman need not be handmade, but must be as authentic as can be purchased today.

2. Must have spent at least two days and one night in a primitive camp during each season of the year.

3. Must have spent an accumulative time of two or more weeks in the wilderness under primitive conditions in the company of no more than one other member. Each stay must be at least three full days and two full nights.

4. Must have spent at least one full week in a primitive encampment in the company of other members at the Territorial AMM Rendezvous (Eastern or Western) or the National (Rocky Mountain) AMM Rendezvous.

5. Must be able to demonstrate the skills needed for primitive survival in the wilderness of his area and must be willing to teach said skills to other members when requested by a Party Boosway or Director of this Association.

6. Must be able to demonstrate trapping ability using steel traps, snares, and traps made from natural materials found in the area. As many states do not allow the use of some, or any, of these traps, the actual taking of game is not required, although it is suggested where possible and legal.

7. Must be able to demonstrate ability to track man or animal under natural wilderness conditions.

8. Must be able to demonstrate the ability to properly pack a horse, canoe, bullboat, or a man for distance travel under possible adverse conditions.

9. Must be able to properly field dress (clean and skin) a game animal under primitive conditions.

10. Must be able to start a fire in wet, as well as dry, weather using flint and steel or fire drill using tinder and wood found under natural conditions.

11. Must be able to show ability to tan or Indian-dress hides.
12. Must have spent at least five days traveling on foot, snowshoe, canoe, and/or horseback. One method or a combination may be used. Bullboat may be used in place of canoe. You are expected to gain as much distance as possible. This trip must be under primitive conditions, taking nothing that would not have been available to the mountain man between 1800-1840. Period weapon with accoutrements and knife must be along.
13. Must be able to cook a meal of meat using only the meat, fire, a knife, and materials found in nature.
14. Must be able to converse using Plains Indians hand talk. The 200 words on page 64 of Tompkin's book "Indian Sign Language", will be used as a basis for conversation. To complete this requirement, you must demonstrate your ability to read the signs for 50 words, as well as to give the signs for 50 words.
15. Must have hunted for and killed at least one game or fur animal with a muzzleloading firearm or primitive bow and must have used the skin and/or meat for food, clothing and/or accoutrements. The hunt must be made from a strictly primitive camp, the hunt accomplished under primitive conditions within the limits of local game laws.
16. Must have at least three full years of membership in AMM.
17. Must be able to properly skin an animal and prepare the skin for market.
18. Must have served as a Boosway for at least two activities of the AMM.
19. Must spend three days and two nights totally alone under primitive conditions and aux aliments du pays ["off the nourishment of the land"].
20. Must have made a study of the life style of the mountain man, frontiersman or American Indian before 1840 and must submit a report of this study to the association Capitaine.

Where applicable, multiple requirements may be completed concurrently. Requirements completed for Bossloper need not be repeated. Requirement 16 shall be interpreted to mean three years as a Regular member.

3. HIVERANNO: This is a special degree awarded to members who have held membership in good standing for no less than three years, have authentic clothing and accouterments (1800-1840 era) and have passed a Primitive Field Test. Hiveranno members have all rights and privileges of this association.

a. Requirements for the Primitive Field Test must be covered in the Association Standing Rules. Any change in these requirements must first be approved by the Grand Council then by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of all members holding Hiveranno membership.

b. The Grand Council may sponsor a member for the Hiveranno membership before the three year requirement is fulfilled providing said member has performed outstanding primitive wilderness accomplishments requiring physical duress beyond the ordinary and meets all -other requirements. Acceptance must be approved by majority vote of all members holding Hiveranno membership, to be determined by special mailed ballot.

4. GRAY BEARD: This is an honorary membership, granted by the Grand Council to men 65 years of age or older who have performed outstanding service for this association or who have special knowledge and abilities needed by this association. The Gray Beard has all rights of regular membership.

5. JUNIOR: This membership is open to young boys fifteen (15) years of age through seventeen (17) years of age. Written authorization by parent or guardian for the Junior member to take an active part of association activities is required before he can be accepted. Junior members require only one sponsor, who may hold any type membership other than probationary. Junior members have the same rights as probationary members.

BY-LAWS 2025

6. ASSOCIATE MEMBERS: This membership is for persons who do not wish to take an active part in the association but wish to receive the association magazine. Other than receiving the association magazine, associate members have no participating rights.
7. FOREIGN MEMBERS: This membership is for all members outside the United States, Canada and Mexico. Foreign members have all rights of association activities except national vote or office. The association Capitaine must approve all Foreign members.

ARTICLE III

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION DIRECTORS, Their DUTIES and TERM of OFFICE

A. Association Directors and their duties are:

1. CAPITAINE: (President). The Capitaine shall be responsible for the coordination of all national association directors, shall coordinate the activities of all staffs and committees on a national level, shall preside at any special meeting of the Grand Council when possible, shall Chairman the Rocky Mountain Rendezvous Committee, shall make decisions concerning the operation of the association when time is not available for Grand Council decisions, shall appoint chairmen to all committees (subject to Grand Council veto) and shall issue the Hiveranno membership to all qualified members. The Capitaine has the power of veto over any staff decision. Said veto may be appealed to the Grand Council, override requiring a majority vote. The Capitaine is expected to issue a yearly report concerning the progress of the association, said report to be published in the association newsletter .
2. WESTERN SEGUNDO: (Western States Vice President)
3. EASTERN SEGUNDO: (Eastern States Vice President)
4. GREAT NORTHERN SEGUNDO: (Canadian Vice President)
 - a. The duties of all Segundos are to coordinate association activities in their territory, to encourage the formation of Parties (Chapters) of Mountain Men, to plan and oversee a

yearly rendezvous for their territory, to promote and assist instruction of the knowledge and abilities needed by the original Mountain Men, to promote research into the lives and ways of the original Mountain Men, to form special committees when needed, to advise and assist new members, to give all possible assistance to Brigade Booshways and to assist the Capitaine in any way possible. The Segundo shall review the nominations, and Booshway recommendations for all new members in their territory, accepting or rejecting them.

b. The office of the Great Northern Segundo shall be filled when the Grand Council determines that there are enough members in Canada to warrant doing so.

5. **CHIEF CLERK:** (Secretary). The Chief Clerk shall answer all mail not directed to a specific director, maintain an up-to-date file of all members, compile and mail the Grand Council Bulletin with necessary ballot attached, count the Grand Council Ballots when received and maintain all other necessary files. The Chief Clerk is expected to keep all Segundos informed of any new members in (or any members dropped from) their territories.
6. **CHIEF PURSER:** (Treasurer). The Chief Purser shall receive dues and issue membership cards, maintain an up-to-date dues file of all members, inform the Chief Clerk when a member is dropped because of non-payment of dues, maintain a consistent and accurate record of all association monies, properties and other assets, advise the Grand Council on all monetary affairs, assist with the yearly audit of the association treasury and records, make said audit available for printing in the association newsletter, and to make a yearly budget for the efficient operation of this association.
7. **BRIGADE BOOSHWAYS:** (Territory Representatives). Each Brigade Booshway shall represent a specific territory granted to him by the Grand Council. He shall promote activity in his territory, help with the formation of Parties of Mountain Men, represent the association through the media, etc., review nominations for all new Members in his territory and write his recommendations for the

BY-LAWS 2025

consideration of the Segundo, assist new members in any way possible, inform the Segundo of any planned activities in his territory, and write a yearly report of the progress of his territory for the consideration of the Grand Council.

B. Additional duties may be assigned to directors by the Grand Council.

C. The term of office for all directors shall be three years.

1. The term of office for Party Booshways shall be determined by the individual Parties of Mountain Men.

D. No director may concurrently hold two or more positions of office or serve as a member of any staff.

E. Removal of an officer will require:

1. A petition to that effect signed by at least ten members holding the degree of Hiveranno.
2. This petition shall require the Grand Council to issue a special ballot to all members holding voting rights.
3. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote is required for removal from office.

F. No Party Booshway may concurrently serve as a director of this association.

ARTICLE IV

THE GRAND COUNCIL Its DUTIES and POWERS

A. The Grand Council shall be the governing board of this association, all powers (except as listed in these by-laws) residing therein.

B. The Grand Council shall consist of:

1. The Capitaine (President).
2. All Territory Segundos (Vice Presidents).
3. Chief Clerk (Association Secretary).
4. Chief Purser (Association Treasurer).
5. All Brigade Booshways (Brigade Representatives).
6. The immediate past Capitaine.

C. Only members holding the Hiveranno type of membership may serve on the Grand Council.

D. Powers not held by the Grand Council are:

BY-LAWS 2025

1. Election of directors.
 - a. Offices vacated may be filled by the Grand Council during the last third of the term of office.
2. By-laws changes. Any change in by-laws must have a majority vote of all members eligible to vote.
3. Dissolution of this association. Dissolution of this association shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of all members eligible to vote.
4. Affiliation with any other association, corporation, foundation and/or club wherein the other organization can or will assume controlling power.
5. Demand of the member ship anything which would be in violation of the law of the land, the objectives and/or Code of this association or the morals and honor of any member.

E. Only members of the Grand Council shall be considered as directors of this association.

ARTICLE V

BALLOTS and ELECTION of OFFICERS

A. A general election of directors shall be held every three years, starting in the year 1977, new directors to assume office the first day of 1978.

B. Nominations for new directors must be received during the first quarter of the election year. All such nominations must be published in the association newsletter following receipt of the last accepted nomination.

C. Ballots must be sent to all members eligible to vote during the third quarter of the election year. All such ballots must be returned to the election committee within two months after the date sent.

D. Ballots shall be counted by an election committee appointed by the Grand Council. NO association director, Chief of any Staff of head of any committee may sit on this committee. This committee shall consist of no more than five (5) members or less than three (3) members.

1. If at all possible at least two (2) members shall hold Hiveranno or Gray Beard membership.

F. Only ballots received on time to be counted shall be used to determine the necessary majority or two-thirds (2/3) majority

BY-LAWS 2025

required to pass. This shall be the consideration for the election of directors or any other propositions on the ballots.

G. Ballots must be kept on file a minimum of four (4) years.

H. Term of office shall start the first calendar year after election.

ARTICLE VI

DISMISSAL of MEMBERS

A. Any member who endangers the good and welfare of this association by purposely disrupting activities, failure to abide by the code and/or objectives as stated in these by-laws and the association Articles of Incorporation, stealing from other members or purposely cheating at any contests of a type relative to this association's activities, or any unlawful act while engaged in association business or activities may be dismissed from this association by the Grand Council.

1. Any dismissed member may request and on so doing shall receive a hearing and vote concerning reinstatement by the Hiveranno membership. Reinstatement shall require a majority vote.

B. Any member who has not paid his dues within 60 days after the expiration date on his current membership card shall be automatically dismissed from this association.

1. On presentation of a valid reason for late payment, the Chief Purser may accept a member's dues and reinstate him. The expiration date shall remain as if his dues had been paid on time.

ARTICLE VII

ASSOCIATION PUBLICATIONS

A. There shall be a permanent staff appointed to manage the association educational magazine, the association newsletter, educational booklets, etc.

B. The Chief of the Publications Staff or Chief Editor must hold Hiveranno membership. He shall be appointed to this position by the Grand Council.

C. The Chief Editor shall appoint all other members of his staff.

D. The Publications Staff may consist of as many members as are needed to edit material and print assemble and mail the magazine and newsletter.

E. Within the Publications Staff there shall be an editing committee appointed by the Chief Editor. This committee shall edit and filter out all modern innovations from any article dealing with authenticity and historic correctness.

ARTICLE VIII

ASSOCIATION MUSEUM and RESEARCH CENTER

A. This association shall establish a museum and research center.

B. The Museum Staff shall consist of not less than seven (7) or more than eleven (11) members, none of which may be probationary members.

1. Although not counted as part of the Museum Staff, the Capitaine and Chief Purser shall have voting privileges at any and all Museum Staff meetings.

C. The Chief of the Museum Staff (Factor) must hold Hiveranno membership.

D. The Museum Staff shall be responsible for the purchase of and/or receipt of artifacts, documents and related materials to be housed or used by the Museum and Research Center.

E. The Museum Staff shall be responsible for the maintenance and operation of the Association Library, and shall be responsible for the Purchase and/or receipt of all books and related materials to be used by the Library.

1. One (1) member of the Museum Staff shall be appointed by the Factor as Librarian.

F. The Museum Staff shall be responsible for the appointment of Museum Lecturers. Said Lecturers shall not be members of the Museum Staff.

1. Museum Lecturers shall be talks and classes concerning early Mountain Man history and related subjects to schools, scout organizations, other historical organizations, etc.

G. A special fund shall be established for the maintenance and operation of the Museum and Research Center and its activities. This fund shall be administered by the Museum Staff.

H. The Museum Staff shall be responsible for keeping an accurate file system of all museum, artifacts, books and related materials. This system shall be in accord with established systems used by other museums.

I. A quarterly report listing all museum activities, new artifacts, books, etc., expenditures, income and amount of monies in the Museum Fund shall be submitted to the Grand Council for their information.

J. The Museum Staff may publish announcements of special museum activities, etc. Books, pamphlets, etc., concerning individual artifacts or a collective series of artifacts shall be submitted to the Publications Staff for publication.

ARTICLE IX

OTHER STAFFS and SPECIAL COMMITTEES

A. Staffs may be formed by-the Grand Council at any time their formation is deemed necessary.

B. Duties, etc., of said staffs shall be written into the Association Standing Rules as they are formed.

C. Chiefs of Staff shall appoint the members of their staff.

D. Special committees may be formed at any time by the Capitaine, any Territory Segundo, Brigade Booshway, Party Booshway or Chief of any Staff.

E. Special Committees shall be automatically terminated as soon as their function is completed.

ARTICLE X

FINANCE

A. The fiscal year of this association shall begin January 1st and end December 31st.

B. At the end of each fiscal year the Chief Purser shall outline a financial statement to be published in the association newsletter.

C. The Chief Purser shall present the Grand Council with a proposed budget for the new fiscal year within one month after the beginning of the fiscal year.

D. Donations to this association may be accepted, but any such donations must not indebt this association to the donor.

BY-LAWS 2025

E. This association may rent or purchase land, buildings, livestock and equipment for use as necessary for the activities and objectives of the association.

F. Salaries or wages may be paid by this association to:

1. Any member of any staff working at least eight (8) hours each week to accomplish the objectives, activities and operation of the staff.
2. Individual members or non-members for building projects, special instruction classes, lecture tours or other special activities required by the Grand Council or any staff.
3. No association director may receive any salary or wage from this association or any staff of this association.

G. Salaries and/or wages may be paid only on signed agreement between receiving member or nonmember and the Grand Council. Such agreement must fully outline the work or duty to be performed, the amount of salary or wages to be paid and the method of payment.

1. Salaries and wages must be paid in accord with existing federal, state and local laws.

H. Any officer or member may be reimbursed for actual costs incurred during the duties assigned to him by the Articles of Incorporation, these by-laws, or the Grand Council.

1. A detailed report of any such costs must be presented to the Grand Council for approval. A copy of this report must remain on file with the Chief Purser.

I. All association checks must be signed by two (2) officers authorized by the Grand Council to do so.

1. Whenever possible one (1) officer must be the Chief Purser.
2. In the case of special funds for the operation of staffs, two (2) authorized staff members must sign.

J. The Chief Purser may use any system of bookkeeping he is acquainted with providing such system gives adequate information for the efficient management of this association.

K. Record of all financial transactions must be kept on file with the association's Chief Purser for a minimum of seven (7) years.

L. Association dues shall be established by the Grand Council.

1. Dues must at all times remain as low as efficient management of this association will allow.

ARTICLE XI

CHAPTERS of this ASSOCIATION

- A. Association chapters (called Parties of Mountain Men) may be formed by four (4) or more members, one (1) holding membership other than probationary, junior or associate.
- B. One (1) member holding membership other than probationary, junior or associate must be elected Party Booshway (Chairman).
- C. The Chapter charter must be signed by the association Capitaine and Chief Clerk.
- D. Chapters may meet as often as necessary to accomplish their objectives, but must meet at least once a year.
- E. Any other regulations concerning chapters shall be outlined in the Association Standing Rules.

ARTICLE XII

ASSOCIATION LIVING HISTORY PROGRAM

- A. This association shall maintain a continuous educational program of American history, especially where such history concerns the original American Mountain Men. This program shall:
 - 1. Make available to states, museums, and other organizations and interested persons, any or all information gained through our research, such as books, pamphlets, bulletins and research papers giving the history of the original Mountain Men and/or showing the construction of their equipment and ways of using it.
 - 2. Hold educational field trips in which members will be required to dress and live as the original Mountain Men did.
 - a. Some of these trips will be for members only, the public or select organizations (Boy Scouts, etc.) will be invited to others and will not necessarily be required to have authentic dress.
 - b. Give instruction concerning American history and primitive methods of living (American Indian, Mountain Men, etc.) to or at schools, scout groups or other public groups.

ARTICLE XIII

NATIONAL and AREA RENDEZVOUS

A . This association shall hold one national rendezvous in the Rocky Mountains each year.

1. The association Capitaine and a committee appointed by him shall be responsible for the planning, location and conduct of the national rendezvous.
2. The annual meeting of members for the purpose of establishing association priorities will be held.
3. Members will be required to dress and live much as the original Mountain Men did.
4. Field classes, lectures, etc. , covering as many aspects of Mountain Man life as possible will be held.
5. On days selected by the committee the rendezvous may be open for public visitation and education.

B. Territory Segundos may call rendezvous for their territory at any time they feel desirable. They shall be responsible for the planning, location and conduct of their rendezvous, but may delegate part of this responsibility to a committee appointed by them for this purpose.

1. Reasons and other criteria for a territorial rendezvous shall be the same as those of the national rendezvous.

ARTICLE XIV

ASSOCIATION STANDING RULES

A. Any rules or regulations which are not covered by the Articles of Incorporation or these by-laws, any special rules or regulations covering the management and operation of Staffs or committees, or anything in these by-laws stated to be covered in the Standing Rules must be fully covered by the Association Standing Rules.

B. Association Standing Rules may be changed or new rules adopted by majority vote of the Grand Council.

C. No Standing Rule may be at any time adopted which can in any way change the meaning or purpose of the Articles of Incorporation or these by-laws.

ARTICLE XV

ASSOCIATION MOTTO and COLORS

A. The motto of this association shall be "Aux Aliments de Pays."

1. This is interpreted to mean "To live from the land"

B. The colors of this association shall be: Sky Blue, Grass Green and Earth Brown.

ARTICLE XVI

ASSOCIATION CODE

(The Code of the Mountains)

A. The following shall be the standard code to be used during all rendezvous, field activities or other special activities:

1. I shall at all times consider a man's private life none of my business unless he wishes to make it so.
2. I shall at all times strive to be a self-reliant individual, asking help only if and when it is absolutely needed.
3. I shall at all times consider my word a sacred trust, a bond which is not to be broken.
4. I shall at all times respect the personal property of other members, considering thievery an act deserving contempt.
5. Before entering any camp or lodge I shall first make my presence known, then enter only if invited.
6. I shall at no time fire any firearm in camp or give any other false warning of impending danger.
7. During any survival situation I shall be willing to divide any food and water I have and give any other assistance to people found in need.
8. I shall take from nature only what I need or can actually use, practicing good conservation of our native wilderness and wildlife.
9. At any association activity I shall follow the rules set forth by the Boosway in charge or leave of my own free will.
10. I shall at all times Strive to it improve myself, my wilderness abilities and my knowledge of nature's law.

B. Any member consistently breaking this code or any part of it shall be asked to resign his membership by the Brigade Boosway or Territory Segundo. Should said member fail to do so the Grand

BY-LAWS 2025

Council may be asked to dismiss him as per Article VI, these by-laws.

ARTICLE XVII

GAME LAW COMPLIANCE

A. Any game taken by any member for any association test or taken for any association activity must be taken in full compliance with any and all game laws of the area.

B. In accord with the ideals of fair chase, at no time may game be taken from any motor vehicle or aircraft, nor may any type of radio communication be established between members during any hunt.

ARTICLE XVIII

AMENDMENTS or ADDITIONS to these BY-LAWS

A. After approval by the Grand Council, any amendment or change to these by-laws shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the voting membership.

1. Any proposed amendment or change presented to the Grand Council on a petition signed by twenty (20) or more voting members shall be presented to the voting membership with or without, Grand Council approval.

B. Any proposed amendment or change in by-laws shall be presented to the voting membership by special ballot, accompanied by a special bulletin listing arguments both in favor and against the proposal.

C. Ballots shall be counted by a committee of three (3) appointed by the association Capitaine.

D. All ballots shall be counted the 21st day after the date sent, postmarked to be the determining factor.

E. All returned ballots must be kept on file with the Chief Clerk for a minimum of four (4) years, said file to be open to any voting member wishing to personally view it.

ASSOCIATION CODE

(The Code of the Mountains)

A. The following shall be the standard code to be used during all rendezvous, field activities or other special activities:

1. I shall at all times consider a man's private life none of my business unless he wishes to make it so.
2. I shall at all times strive to be a self-reliant individual, asking help only if and when it is absolutely needed.
3. I shall at all times consider my word a sacred trust, a bond which is not to be broken.
4. I shall at all times respect the personal property of other members, considering thievery an act deserving contempt.
5. Before entering any camp or lodge I shall first make my presence known, then enter only if invited.
6. I shall at no time fire any firearm in camp or give any other false warning of impending danger.
7. During any survival situation I shall be willing to divide any food and water I have and give any other assistance to people found in need.
8. I shall take from nature only what I need or can actually use, practicing good conservation of our native wilderness and wildlife.
9. At any association activity I shall follow the rules set forth by the Boosway in charge or leave of my own free will.
10. I shall at all times Strive to it improve myself, my wilderness abilities and my knowledge of nature's law.

ARTICLE I. PROBATIONARY MEMBERSHIP

Probationary membership is the entry level for anyone seeking Regular membership in this association. A Probationary member shall also be known as a "Pilgrim". The purpose of the Probationary membership period is so that a man may demonstrate, by word and deed, an interest in the fur trade era, a desire to abide by the association code, and a willingness to participate in association activities. Although many men come to this organization with a great deal of wilderness experience, all must go through this Probationary membership period.

On all applications approved by the Capitaine, the Segundo of that territory must be advised of the details for his records.

A. Privileges of Membership

So long as his dues remain current, a Pilgrim shall receive the association newsletter and magazine and he shall be permitted to attend all association functions. Probationary membership does not include voting privileges, except in party elections.

B. Suspension of Membership (Amended January 12, 2020)

Probationary membership is intended to be a temporary membership level, and any Pilgrim failing to meet the requirements for advancement to Regular membership (Bossloper) within two years will be dropped from the association rolls. To be reinstated as an active member of the AMM, the Pilgrim must resubmit his Probationary application for admittance and must start over on all ten requirements. The two-year Probationary period may be extended only due to unusual extenuating circumstances, beyond the control of the Pilgrim. Extensions must be requested by the sponsor(s) and approved by the Brigade Booshway and Territorial Segundo.

C. Responsibilities of Sponsors

1. Prospective members shall be deemed by their sponsor(s) to be men who whose character, skills, knowledge, experience, and/or commitment make them worthy of joining the American Mountain Men. Sponsor(s) should invite a man to become a Pilgrim only after spending a sufficient amount of time on the ground with him to determine his qualifications.
2. The task of Pilgrim sponsorship shall be performed entirely by the Pilgrim's nominator(s) (as nomination is described within the By-Laws). The sponsor(s) shall be responsible for the education and

STANDING RULES 2025_2-8

behavior of the Pilgrim throughout his probationary period, ensuring that they understand and abide by the Association Code. **(Amended January 24, 2021)**

3. A Bossloper may sponsor no more than one Probationary member at a time. A Hiveranno may sponsor no more than two Probationary members at a time. A Party may sponsor up to 3 Probationary members at a time.
4. In the case of Party sponsorship, decisions regarding the Probationary member (whether to invite, to advance to Bossloper, etc.) shall be determined by a 2/3 majority vote of the Party members.

Sponsorship Guidelines

1. An applicant may seek sponsorship in his own state or territory from a Party or individual(s), or he may seek sponsorship from a Party or individual(s) in a state or territory where or with whom, he will be an active participant in Party outings. Such Party or individual(s) must be able to provide documentation of the applicant's AMM activities.
2. If he fails to find a sponsor, he may request a Journal Sponsorship from the Brigade Booshway of his state or territory. This must be done in writing and he must explain why conventional sponsorship could not be obtained.
3. The sponsoring agent commits to working "hands-on" with the pilgrim until he is satisfied that the new man has a good concept of skills, history and brotherhood.
4. All advancement paperwork is to be signed by the member's sponsor(s) and the Brigade Booshway of the state or territory in which the man resides. **(Amended 2001)**

ARTICLE II. REGULAR MEMBERSHIP

Regular membership means "full" membership in this association. A Regular member shall also be known as a "Bossloper".

A. Requirements

To become a Bossloper, a man must have completed at least one full year as a Probationary member. From the list of Hiveranno requirements (Article III, below), he must complete at least 10 requirements. The

STANDING RULES 2025_2-8

selection of which 10 requirements to do are the Pilgrim's choice, except that requirements 1 and 2 are mandatory, and requirement 16 is not applicable for advancement to Bossloper.

B. Privileges of Membership

A Bossloper shall be provided with a permanent AMM membership number. So long as his dues are current, he shall receive the association newsletter and magazine, shall be eligible to vote in all elections, and shall be permitted to attend all association functions. Bosslopers are eligible to run for Party Office.

C. Advancement Procedure

The Pilgrim shall keep a journal of his AMM activities, and journal entries may be used to document requirements accomplished when the sponsors are not present. The Pilgrim must complete the requirements to the satisfaction of his sponsors. Once all requirements for advancement are complete, the Pilgrim shall complete a Bossloper application form. This form must be signed by the sponsor(s), thereby attesting that the member has successfully completed all requirements for Bossloper.

These application materials shall be forwarded to the Brigade Boosway, and then to the Territorial Segundo for their signatures. After these approvals are obtained, the Territorial Segundo shall forward the material to the Chief Clerk, who shall record it in the membership records. The Chief Clerk shall issue a card with membership number to the new Bossloper.

ARTICLE III. HIVERANNO MEMBERSHIP

Hiveranno is a special degree awarded to members who have passed a stringent field test, fully outfitted themselves with carefully researched accoutrements, and, in general, have shown by word and deed that they are highly dedicated to the ideals and principles of this association.

A. Requirements

To become a Hiveranno, all requirements listed below must be completed. This is the "field test" referred to in the By-laws.

1. Must have a full set of hand-cut and -sewn clothing and handmade accoutrements. These must be researched for authenticity of the 1800-40 period and be of a type which would have been seen on men in, or moving to, the Rocky Mountains.

STANDING RULES 2025_2-8

Period weapons, saddles, traps, blankets, and other accoutrements that would normally have required the work of a specialized craftsman need not be handmade, but must be as authentic as can be purchased today.

2. Must have spent at least two days and one night in a primitive camp during each season of the year.

3. Must have spent an accumulative time of two or more weeks in the wilderness under primitive conditions in the company of no more than one other member. Each stay must be at least three full days and two full nights.

4. Must have spent at least one full week in a primitive encampment in the company of other members at the Territorial AMM Rendezvous (Eastern or Western) or the National (Rocky Mountain) AMM Rendezvous.

5. Must be able to demonstrate the skills needed for primitive survival in the wilderness of his area and must be willing to teach said skills to other members when requested by a Party Boosway or Director of this Association.

6. Must be able to demonstrate trapping ability using steel traps, snares, and traps made from natural materials found in the area.

As many states do not allow the use of some, or any, of these traps, the actual taking of game is not required, although it is suggested where possible and legal.

7. Must be able to demonstrate ability to track man or animal under natural wilderness conditions.

8. Must be able to demonstrate the ability to properly pack a horse, canoe, bullboat, or a man for distance travel under possible adverse conditions.

9. Must be able to properly field dress (clean and skin) a game animal under primitive conditions.

10. Must be able to start a fire in wet, as well as dry, weather using flint and steel or fire drill using tinder and wood found under natural conditions.

11. Must be able to show ability to tan or Indian-dress hides.

12. Must have spent at least five days traveling on foot, snowshoe, canoe, and/or horseback.

One method or a combination may be used.

STANDING RULES 2025_2-8

Bullboat may be used in place of canoe.

You are expected to gain as much distance as possible.

This trip must be under primitive conditions, taking nothing that would not have been available to the mountain man between 1800-1840. Period weapon with accoutrements and knife must be along.

13. Must be able to cook a meal of meat using only the meat, fire, a knife, and materials found in nature.

14. Must be able to converse using Plains Indians hand talk. The 200 words on page 64 of Tompkin's book "Indian Sign Language", will be used as a basis for conversation. To complete this requirement, you must demonstrate your ability to read the signs for 50 words, as well as to give the signs for 50 words.

15. Must have hunted for and killed at least one game or fur animal with a muzzleloading firearm or primitive bow and must have used the skin and/or meat for food, clothing and/or accoutrements. The hunt must be made from a strictly primitive camp, the hunt accomplished under primitive conditions within the limits of local game laws.

16. Must have at least three full years of membership in AMM.

17. Must be able to properly skin an animal and prepare the skin for market.

18. Must have served as a Booshway for at least two activities of the AMM.

19. Must spend three days and two nights totally alone under primitive conditions and aux aliments du pays ["off the nourishment of the land"].

20. Must have made a study of the life style of the mountain man, frontiersman or American Indian before 1840 and must submit a report of this study to the association Capitaine.

Where applicable, multiple requirements may be completed concurrently. Requirements completed for Bossloper need not be repeated. Requirement 16 shall be interpreted to mean three years as a Bossloper or Gray Beard member.

B. Grand Council Sponsorship The Grand Council may sponsor a member for Hiveranno membership before the three year requirement is fulfilled, providing said member has performed outstanding primitive wilderness accomplishments requiring physical duress beyond the

ordinary and meets all other requirements. Acceptance must be approved by a majority vote of all members of the Grand Council, to be determined by a special mailed ballot.

C. Privileges of Membership

A Hiveranno is entitled to all rights and privileges of this association. So long as his dues are current, a Hiveranno shall receive the association newsletter and magazine, shall be eligible to vote in all elections, and shall be permitted to attend all association functions. A Hiveranno is eligible to hold any elected office in the organization.

D. Advancement Procedure

A member desiring to advance to Hiveranno must keep a journal of his AMM activities, which will serve as documentation that he has completed the requirements. When all requirements are completed, the prospective Hiveranno shall use the information in his journal to prepare a summary listing the occasions, dates, and other information as needed to substantiate that he has completed each requirement. This summary, a copy of the report from requirement 20, and written recommendations from the Brigade Boosway and the Territorial Segundo must be sent to the Capitaine for his approval. After all signatures are obtained, the Capitaine will forward the paperwork to the chief clerk, who will record it in the membership records and issue a Hiveranno membership card. The new Hiveranno's membership number will not change.

ARTICLE IV.SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

A. Junior Members

Junior Member. Junior Boys aged 15-17 may become Junior Members. A Parental Consent Form must be signed by the boy's parents or legal guardian before he can be accepted as a member, require one sponsor who is either a Bossloper or a Hiveranno. So long as his dues remain current, a Junior member shall be entitled to receive the association newsletter and magazine and he shall be permitted to attend all association functions. Once a Junior Member turns 18, he may either become a Probationary Member, under the rules listed for that membership level, or become an Associate Member. If a Junior member becomes a probationary member at age 18, the time spent as a Junior member may be applied to the one year minimum requirement for Probationary members, but not to the two year maximum. Requirements completed as a Junior Member shall apply to Bossloper requirements. **(Amended March 28, 2013)**

B. Master Trapper

The title “Master Trapper” within the American Mountain Men is to be awarded to brothers that have excelled above and beyond the expectations of a Hiveranno and that have performed services for the betterment of this organization. Just reaching the age of 65 or have failing health does not make one entitled to this award. This award must be earned by a man’s actions and deeds. The title “Master Trapper” should be an honor that men will be proud of having.

1. Must hold Hiveranno Degree or was prohibited from obtaining Hiveranno due to health reasons that did not, however, stop them from meeting the criteria set down below.
2. Must be 65 years of age minimum.
3. Must have at least 10 years continuous active membership.
4. Must have current membership.
5. Must have performed services for this organization by serving as any or all of the following:
 - a. National Officer
 - b. Brigade Booshway
 - c. Party Booshway
 - d. Booshway for a national event such as a Territorial or National Rendezvous
 - e. AMM Committee Member
6. Shall have been an outstanding role model, mentor and teacher of the fundamentals of this association and shall have done so by actions as well as deeds.
7. Must have had at least one article published in the *Tomahawk & Long Rifle*, *Moccasin Mail*, or other publications dealing with the interests of this association.
8. Must have contributed to the education of the general public and/or membership
 - a. By doing educational programs for the general public such as at Rendezvous, museums, Boy Scouts, schools or other like groups
 - b. Or have given Rocky Mountain Colleges at AMM camps
 - c. Or have shown his willingness to share his skills and knowledge with the membership by some other means.
9. Must be nominated and approved by a majority vote of his Brigade. Said brigade is responsible for the purchase of the medallion and any awards given to the nominee.
10. The Brigade Booshway shall submit the Brigade’s nominee and qualifications to the Grand Council for final approval. In the case of a Brigade Booshway being nominated, the Brigade making the nomination shall send his nomination to the Territorial Segundo.

STANDING RULES 2025_2-8

11. Master Trapper Nomination Process Guidelines

- a. Keep a good tally of the voting and how it was accomplished so that the final results can be shared with the GC for transparency and clarity.
- b. Everyone in the brigade should have the chance to vote – not just targeting getting to a majority and then stopping etc...Again – transparency, consistency, equity across the board...
- c. Use a simple mail out/mail back ballot (with a return deadline) and have a designated person(s) count and tally, record and forward results to the appropriate person(s).
- d. Results should be forwarded to the Chief Clerk for recording, in case someone has questions re: whether everyone in the brigade was contacted AND that the majority voted “yes”. This really should have a response from 100% of the brigade, unless there is some outstanding reason.
- e. Ensure that when the point-by-point information to the GC the guidelines are noted point-by-point and addressed with how the individual accomplished meeting that particular item, with specifics.
- f. The medallion cost and engraving is a brigade expense.
- g. The brigade needs to be prepared to purchase and provide/present a hand forged beaver trap to the nominee.

C. Gray Beard (amended April 26, 2015)

This is an honorary membership granted by the Grand Council by a simple majority, to men sixty five (65) years of age or older, Bossloper or Hiveranno, who have performed outstanding service for this organization or who have special knowledge and abilities needed by this organization.

D. Associate Member (amended April 17, 2016)

The Associate Membership is for persons who do not wish to take an active part in the association but wish to subscribe to the association magazine. Associate members have no participating rights in any of the AMM organization or activities.

ARTICLE V. THE GRAND COUNCIL, ITS DUTIES AND POWERS

Besides the duties specified in the Association By-laws, any additional guidelines for Association officers are listed below:

A. Chief Clerk

The Chief Clerk shall maintain these Standing Rules and keep them up to date with any new rules or decisions approved by the Grand Council.

The results of all Grand Council decisions will be published in the following *Moccasin Mail*. The exact language of what was voted on and how each Grand Council Member voted will be included in the *Moccasin Mail*. **(amended May 2005)**

ARTICLE VI. TERRITORIES AND BRIGADES

The Territories and Brigades shall be as follows:

Western Territory

- WY, SD Brigade
- OR, WA. No. ID, AK Brigade
- UT, So. ID Brigade
- CA, NV, HI Brigade
- MT, ND Brigade
- CO, NE Brigade
- Red River Brigade (TX, OK, AR, LA)
- South West Brigade (AZ, NM)
- Missouri River Brigade (IA, MO, KS Brigade)

Eastern Territory (Amended January 29, 2023)

- IN, OH Brigade
- IL, WI, MN Brigade

STANDING RULES 2025_2-8

- New England Brigade (MA, NH, VT, CT, RI, ME) (temporarily with IN, OH Brigade)
- NY, NJ, DE Brigade (temporarily with IN, OH Brigade)
- MI Brigade
- KY, TN, NC, SC Brigade
- FL, AL, GA, MS Brigade
- Allegheny Northwest Brigade (VA, WV, MD, PA)

ARTICLE VII. ASSOCIATION PUBLICATIONS

Besides the requirements specified in the Association By-laws, any additional guidelines for Association publications are listed below:

A. Association Magazine.

This shall be called the "Tomahawk and Long Rifle", and shall be published four times a year, approximately quarterly. It is intended to be a tool for promoting the educational objectives of the Association. Its contents should include articles pertaining to the history of the Mountain Men, "how-to" articles on period skills, or stories of living-history activities.

B. Association Newsletter.

This shall be called the "Moccasin Mail", and shall be published four times a year, approximately quarterly. It is intended to be a means of communicating with members about Association business. Its contents should include quarterly reports from the Capitaine, Segundos, Chief Clerk, and Chief Purser.

C. Journal of the Grand Council.

This is published as needed for communications between Grand Council members. It is intended to be a tool for conducting the business of the Grand Council outside of the Annual Grand Council meeting.

ARTICLE VIII. ASSOCIATION MUSEUM AND RESEARCH CENTER

Besides the requirements specified in the Association By-laws, any additional guidelines for the Association Museum and Research Center are listed below:

The Museum Committee shall maintain a checking account. They will continue to report quarterly, and provide an annual report to the Chief Purser. (Added May 2005)”

ARTICLE IX. OTHER STAFFS AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Besides the duties specified in the Association By-laws, any additional guidelines for staffs or special committees are listed below:

A. AMM KY Land Use Committee (amended October 23, 2016)

1. Appoint a committee under the control of the AMM Grand Council to manage the AMM KY Land.
2. Committee Chairman to be approved by the AMM Grand Council.
3. The Committee Chairman should hold Hiveranno membership, if possible.
4. Committee to consist of no less than five (5) and no more than seven (7) members.
5. Committee to report regularly to the AMM Grand Council, and at least annually, on land management issues.
6. Committee to work with the AMM Chief Purser to create annual goals, budget and track finances by December 1st each year for the following year.
7. Quarterly status report to the AMM Grand Council and provide an annual report to the Chief Purser.
8. Exceptions to this Standing Rule must be approved by the AMM Grand Council
9. For more details re: general property guidelines please see ARTICLE XVI. AMM Property (amended April 17, 2016).

B. AMM WY Land Use Committee

(Added January 24, 2021)

1. Appoint a committee under the control of the AMM Grand Council to manage the AMM WY Land.
2. Committee Chairman to be approved by the AMM Grand Council.
3. The Committee Chairman should hold Hiveranno membership, if possible.
4. Committee to consist of no less than four (4) and no more than seven (7) members.
5. Committee to report regularly to the AMM Grand Council, and at least annually, on land management issues.
6. Committee to work with the AMM Chief Purser to create annual goals, budget and track finances by December 1st each year for the following year.
7. Quarterly status report to the AMM Grand Council and provide an annual report to the Chief Purser.
8. Exceptions to this Standing Rule must be approved by the AMM Grand Council.
9. For more details re: general property guidelines please see ARTICLE XVI. AMM Property.

C. Standing Rules Committee

The duties of the Standing Rules Committee shall be to draft Standing Rules necessary for the effective management and operation of this association, and to provide guidance for complying with the provisions outlined in the Articles of Incorporation and the By-Laws. The Standing Rules Committee shall present a recommended draft of Standing Rules to the Grand Council for their consideration and vote.

D. Upon election of new Officers, the existing committee staffs may be retained by the new Officers and Grand Council or may be dissolved at the Officers and Grand Council discretion. The committee shall report their work to the new Grand Council. All Association property held by committee members will immediately be turned over to the Capitaine upon his request. **(Added Oct. 22, 2005)**

E. Archivist. Mission Statement: The archives of the American Mountain Men shall serve as a repository of information that documents the AMM organization, its members and affiliates; relevant primitive outdoor/wilderness survival skills; and, the American Fur Trade from 1800 - 1840.

Archive Guidelines

1. Archival Collection Material

- a. Archives specific purpose is to house the following items:
 1. A complete set of “*Tomahawk & Long Rifle*” magazines
 2. A complete set of “*Moccasin Mail*”
 3. A complete set of Grand Council Meeting Minutes
 4. A complete set of Brigade publication
 5. A complete set of Party publications
 6. A complete set of Segundo publications
 7. Original Membership Applications
 8. Relevant photographic materials
 9. A copy of publications produced by AMM members (as individuals or as groups)
 10. Relevant personnel correspondence
 11. Other materials that may be deemed appropriate by the acting archivist.
 12. A file of the MP3 Grand Council Teleconference recordings.
(Added January 12, 2020)
- b. Artifacts that are better suited to a museum environment, and publications better suited to a loaning library environment shall not be housed in the archives.
- c. Duplicate items donated to the Archives shall be recorded but shall not be accessioned.
- d. Duplicate items not accessioned will be disposed of at the discretion of the acting Archivist.

2. Archival Collection: Distribution & Access

- a. Original items will not be distributed or released to anyone, except under court order (e.g. Documents that may be involved in some legal proceedings)
- b. Copies of items will be made available upon request, per the following:

STANDING RULES 2025_2-8

- a. Requestor to send written request
 - b. Requestor to provide the funding required for copying material and postage.
 - c. Only active AMM members shall be provided access to archival information, with exceptions made per written direction of the Capitaine or the Grand Council.
- c.** Physical access to archival material is at the discretion of the archivist, if collections are housed in a private residence.

ARTICLE X. FINANCE

Besides the requirements specified in the Association By-laws, any additional guidelines for handling Association finances are listed below:

A. Dues (Grey Beard dues “optional at the Grey Beard’s discretion” added April 26, 2015)

1. Dues rates shall be as shown on the following table:

Junior	\$25 per calendar year*
Pilgrim	\$35 per calendar year, plus \$5 initiation fee for the first year*
Bossloper, Hiveranno	\$35 per calendar year*
Gray Beard, Master Trapper ***	Dues, “optional at the Grey Beard’s discretion” Dues, “optional at the Master Trappers discretion”
Associate	\$25 for one year, \$40 for two years, \$55 for three years**
Foreign Members	Same as above, plus \$10 per year extra to cover increased postage costs**

***(amended September 20, 2015, effective for 2017 dues)**

**** (amended April 17, 2016) *** (Added January 23, 2022)**

2. Dues shall be payable January 1st.
3. If a member’s dues have not been paid by March 1, his membership will be placed on “inactive” status, with all membership privileges suspended. Dropped members who wish to become active will have to pay the membership fee, plus a \$5 dollar filing fee. Reinstating members must submit a letter stating why they want to rejoin the AMM. Members rejoining will retain their number (if they have one). No grace period will be given. (Amended May 2005)
4. If a Junior Member is current on his dues and then turns 18 and submits his Probationary paperwork, he will only pay the difference

STANDING RULES 2025_2-8

between the Junior Member dues and the Regular Member dues plus the \$5 filing fee. **(Added June 28, 2017)**

5. New Probationary members whose first-year dues are received during the 4th quarter of the calendar year shall be considered as paid for the following membership year. **(Added January 21, 2018)**

B. Life Membership

1. Hiveranno members may purchase "Life membership", a lifetime exemption from paying dues, by making a lump-sum payment of \$600.00 (Amended April 17, 2016).
2. The Grand Council may, by majority vote, grant Life Membership to persons who have made outstanding accomplishments related to the association objectives, or performed extraordinary service to the association.
3. Dues relief to be granted upon request to match the number of years served (two terms or six years minimum). (Amended by Grand Council 2002)

C. Laguna Fund

1. The Chief Purser shall maintain a fund, called the Laguna Fund, for the purpose of providing financial aid to members in need.
2. The Laguna Fund shall be funded by voluntary donations only. No General Fund money shall be used for this fund. (Amended May 2005)
3. Requests for grants from this fund must be approved by the Capitaine, Purser, Eastern and Western Segundos, and the Brigade Booshway where the man requesting the funds is from. (Amended May 2005)
4. Laguna Funds will be maintained as a separate line item from all other Association accounts. (Amended April 26, 2015)
5. Requests in excess of \$250 must be approved by the Grand Council. (Added May 2005)
6. The Laguna Fund will have a cap of \$1,000 per request, unless the Laguna Fund balance is less than \$10,000, in which case, 10% of the balance is the maximum available." (added January 14, 2024)

D. Land Fund (Amended January 23, 2022)

1. The Chief Purser shall maintain two Land Funds. They shall be known as: The Kentucky Land Fund and The Wyoming Land Fund. Their purpose is for maintaining real estate owned by the Association, including property taxes.

2. Assets in these Land Funds originate from special fund-raising activities and designated donations. Assets may be held in separate accounts maintained by the respective Land Use Committees. A quarterly and a year-end accounting shall be provided to the Chief Purser.

3. The respective Land Use Committees shall submit a proposed spending plan to be included in the draft AMM budget

4. Disbursements from these funds must be approved by vote of the Grand Council.

E. Management of Funds

1. The funds mentioned herein are intended to be separate bookkeeping entries, but may be co-mingled in the same bank accounts, at the discretion of the Chief Purser. All funds should be prudently invested so as to earn interest.

2. The Chief Purser shall send quarterly financial reports to the Grand Council and to the *Moccasin Mail* for publication. **(Added May 2005)**

3. The Grand Council, by a majority vote, will approve or modify for approval the proposed annual budget from the Chief Purser.

4. If a line item contained in the approved budget needs to exceed what is budgeted, or an additional item added, the Grand Council may, by a majority vote, approve the additional funds prior to their expenditure.

5. The Association may not be placed in debt without a majority vote of the Grand Council, and publishing the intent to do so in the *Moccasin Mail* one month prior to the Grand Council vote. **(Added May 2005)**

F. Education Outreach Fund

1. The Chief Purser shall maintain a fund, called the Education Outreach Fund, for the purpose of providing financial aid to groups, individuals, events, museums etc. that further the studies and sharing of information about the western fur trade of 1800 to 1840. (Added April 2023)

ARTICLE XI. CHAPTERS OF THIS ASSOCIATION

STANDING RULES 2025_2-8

Besides the requirements specified in the Association By-laws, any additional guidelines for Chapters (also known as Parties) are listed below:

A. Party Elections - The term of office for Party officers shall be determined by the individual Parties. The Party Booshway (President) and Party Clerk/Purser shall be elected at this time. All members in good standing within the party may vote in party elections regardless of their membership level in the American Mountain Men. Only members holding Bossloper or Hiveranno membership may be nominated for Party Booshway. Method of balloting - secret ballot shall be used. Ballots shall be counted by two members not running for office. A simple majority shall be used to determine the outcome of the election.

B. Party Charters - Once a party is formed and elections held, the party may apply for a formal Charter by petitioning the Brigade Booshway, in writing, with a letter including the name of the party, the names of the officers, and the names of all members, their card numbers, and degrees. Once this information is received the Territorial Segundo, the Capitaine and the Chief Clerk shall sign and send the Charter to the party.

C. Party Requirements -Each party should hold activities at least quarterly, (one each year is required), and provide the Brigade Booshway with a written annual report detailing the party's accomplishments (including volunteer programs), plans, and names of active members.

D. Revoking a Party Charter - Any party not maintaining activity may have its' charter revoked by the Brigade Booshway and the Territory Segundo. The Party Booshway must be informed six months in advance of any such action and given said six months to revitalize his party.

E. Party Rules - each party may establish rules as needed to insure smooth operation. Chapters shall be prohibited from establishing any rules that are in conflict with the laws of the land, and the association Articles of Incorporation, By-laws, or Standing Rules.

ARTICLE XII. GUIDELINES FOR CONDUCTING NATIONAL AND TERRITORIAL RENDEZVOUS

The National Rendezvous shall be scheduled as at least a 7 day event, to be held annually, generally during the week that includes July 4. If not scheduled during the week that includes July 4, dates to be published by January 1 of that year. The Booshway for the National Rendezvous shall be appointed by the Capitaine. The Booshway may select as many members as he deems necessary to form a committee to organize the rendezvous. Territorial Rendezvous may be scheduled by the Segundos

as desired. The Booshway for any Territorial Rendezvous shall be appointed by the Segundo.

A. Duties of the Booshway and the Rendezvous Committee shall include:

1. Location: The committee shall secure a suitable site for the rendezvous. When possible, it should be of historic significance to the fur trade. The National Rendezvous must be held in the Rocky Mountains. Permission in writing from the landowner must be obtained. Hosting the Nationals Rendezvous will rotate between the five Rocky Mountain Brigades. These Brigades are Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah/Southern Idaho, and Northern Idaho/Oregon/Washington/Alaska (Amended by Grand Council 1999)

2. Date: The membership must be informed when the beginning and end of the rendezvous is. If it is on private land, members may not arrive earlier nor stay later than the announced times. Rendezvous shall be considered as begun and all rules in effect when the first man arrives and ended when the last man leaves.

3. Insurance: Adequate liability insurance for the event shall be obtained. Contact the Chief Clerk or Chief Purser and provide any information required to ensure that proper coverage is in place.

4. Necessities: Sanitation facilities (outhouses, latrines), adequate for the numbers of people expected, shall be provided. Water for drinking and washing must be available. Enough firewood must be available for the duration of the event.

5. Livestock: The site should have sufficient feed and water for any livestock that may be brought into camp. The water for livestock should either be of a separate source or downstream of camp. An area should be designated for picketing horses away from the main part of camp.

6. Shooting: A safe shooting area, outside of camp, should be designated.

7. Activities: The committee shall arrange for "Rocky Mountain Colleges" (field classes, lectures, and other educational activities), covering aspects of mountain man life. Other events, stressing education, entertainment, and skills development, may also be scheduled.

8. Parking: Sufficient parking must be available. If at all possible, the parking area should be located well enough away from the site so that vehicles may not be seen or heard. If the distance from parking lot to camp exceeds one mile, provisions should be made (pack horses, carts, etc.) for assisting members in transporting their gear into camp.

STANDING RULES 2025_2-8

9. Guest: If a non-member is invited for the purpose of making a presentation, such as giving a talk or demonstration of period skills or information or research, the Rendezvous committee shall make all arrangements for that person. An invited speaker, if not in possession of appropriate period clothing, should be provided with some. This should be done well enough in advance so that necessary adjustments and substitutes may be made.

10. Information release: The Booshway shall provide information about the rendezvous to the editor of publications at least 4 months in advance. This information shall include the following: the dates of the event, a map and written directions to the site, notification if water must be brought in or purified, information about livestock feed and water, the type of weather that may be expected, the date of the Grand Council meeting, the dates of any "open camp" days.

11. Medallions: If medallions are struck for an event they should bear at least the following: what the event is, i.e., Territorial, National, etc., where the event is held, and the year.

12. Finance:

- a) An event budget shall be submitted to, and approved by, the Chief Purser before any expenses is incurred. An accounting of all expenses and revenues shall be forwarded to the Chief Purser within 30 days of the event's conclusion. **(Amended April 30, 2023)**
- b) Proceeds from the National Rendezvous and two Territorial Rendezvous are considered assets of the AMM and will be sent to the Chief Purser to be placed in the AMM's operating checking account. Seed money of \$2000 is available to each hosting Brigade of the three National events. \$500 from the net proceeds of these rendezvous will be given back to the hosting Brigade for their use. **(Added November 27, 2022)**

13. First Aid: Consideration shall be given about how to handle medical emergencies and how to evacuate injured persons. Basic first aid supplies should be on-hand.

B. Grand Council Meeting

The annual meeting of the Grand Council shall be held at the National Rendezvous for the purpose of conducting association business and establishing association priorities. The date of the meeting shall be announced in advance. It should be held on the 3rd or 5th of July, when the greatest number of people are in camp. Minutes of the meeting shall be recorded by the chief clerk (or his appointee) and published in the association newsletter.

C. General Camp Meeting

A council meeting of the general membership shall be held at the National Rendezvous. It should be held before the Grand Council meeting.

ARTICLE XIII. STANDARDS OF CONDUCT AND AUTHENTICITY AT AMM NATIONAL AND TERRITORIAL RENDEZVOUS

A. The fish and game laws of all States, territories and regions shall be respected at all times. Violations of those laws may be consideration for dismissal.

B. No loaded firearms shall be allowed in the camp area and the discharge of any firearm, cannon, or projectile within the camp shall be cause for disciplinary action up to dismissal.

C. The gaming or running of horse or mule in the camp shall be considered as an act as dangerous as firing a loaded weapon and the offender(s) shall be treated in the same manner and the same disciplinary action will apply.

D. Any member sponsoring a guest must be a Bossloper or Hiveranno. He shall be restricted to inviting one guest and the guest in turn may bring only members of their immediate family. The attire and conduct of any guest shall be the responsibility of the person offering the invitation.

E. At AMM rendezvous, members shall dress and live much as the original Mountain Men did, having no items in camp that would not have been of a type seen in the possession of Mountain Men in, or moving to the Rocky Mountains between 1800-1840, unless specifically excepted in these standing rules or by the event Booshway. It is the individual's responsibility to check his own gear. Each member shall study reasonable sources of authority (journals, trade lists, museum artifacts, period artwork), to determine whether or not items in his outfit meet this criteria. If an item is questionable, it should not be brought along until it can be verified.

1. Eastern styled breeches, leggins and certain "longhunter gear" (such as coats, moccasins, horse gear, etc.) are acceptable, so long as these outfits are representative of the woodland styles being adapted to the conditions of the western plains and mountains.

2. Acceptable dwellings and shelters shall include: Tipis, Pyramid tents, lean to's of the appropriate historical period, Marquis tent or Wall tent. These may be of canvas and may be machine sewn. Lean to's of natural

STANDING RULES 2025_2-8

materials are also encouraged where the materials are available and where it is legal and acceptable to use these.

3. Cameras and video/audio recording devices, their film and tapes may be used. These should be camouflaged or concealed whenever possible. Cell phones are allowed in camp but can only be used as cameras otherwise they are not to be seen or heard while in camp. **(Amended August 20, 2017)**

4. Prescription medicines, necessary medical devices, items of personal hygiene, and water purification chemicals or filters are acceptable as long as they are concealed whenever possible.

5. Prescription glasses should be fitted to appropriate style frames for the period, if possible.

6. Trade goods and their method of being displayed shall be appropriate to the period.

7. All food and cooking supplies shall be contained, wrapped or stored in containers or materials appropriate to the period.

8. Cooking and eating ware shall be appropriate to the period.

ARTICLE XIV. TRADEMARKS

The use of the name "American Mountain Men", the Association logo, the Association motto, or any registered trademarks of this Association for any commercial purpose must be approved in writing by the Capitaine.

ARTICLE XV. Election Guidelines

(sections A, B, and C added November 17, 2013; B revised April 19,2020)

A. The Moc Mail containing a ballot should go out first class mail only. There should be no electronic version distributed reaching only a portion of the membership early. All ballots should be sent concurrently and expeditiously.

B. Specifics re: the execution of the ballots and committee activities captured to-date include...

- 1.** Ballot mailing shall include a Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope (SASE). The ballot shall be a separate document / sheet distributed with the Moc Mail (that is, not just one of the printed pages within the actual Moc Mail edition).

STANDING RULES 2025_2-8

2. "Return by date" should be clearly printed on the ballot. This should be interpreted as the date by which the Election Committee physically has the ballots in-hand.
3. A defined personal address for the Election Committee Chairman for the return of the ballots should be the first approach. If this is not possible for some reason and a Post Office box is used, it must be in the name of the Election Committee Chairman so that an AMM member is clearly and specifically identified for postal purposes.
4. The responsibility of the ballot creation / mailing process (printing, envelope addressing, stamping, mailing) by the Moc Mail editor is preferred to mirror the mailing list of the Moc Mail and reduce risk of error by a new ad-hoc committee taking on that responsibility once every three years.
5. To assist the Election Committee on sorting and counting ballots, the Brigade of each individual should be included on the pre-addressed mailing address to the Election Committee.
6. A complete and verified address list (preferably Email if possible) of the AMM Grand Council members should be provided to the Election Committee by the AMM Chief Clerk to enable result reporting concurrently to the Grand Council in an expeditious manner.
7. If possible, the Election Committee should rotate between the Western and Eastern Territories, every other election cycle.
8. The Election Committee Chairman should do the final actual count as a check against the final numbers reported by the committee. If there is a discrepancy between the Election Committee count and the check count by the Election Committee Chairman, the Election Committee needs to do a recount to confirm, as the final count used should be that of the overall Election Committee.
9. The Election Committee should be developed using common sense. That is, no candidate should be on the Committee or involved in any manner once the Grand Council approves a committee and no one overtly campaigning for specific candidates should be on the Committee, in an effort to make the Committee as apolitical in nature as possible.
10. As voting members are sometimes confused re: who to vote for in particular offices, it is incumbent on the Brigade Booshways to foster communication and clarification to their brigade members to help alleviate incorrect votes (cross brigade / cross territory) from being cast. The Election Committee is given the authority to disregard any incorrect votes (cross brigade / cross territory) on a given ballot and

STANDING RULES 2025_2-8

shall count only the correct (correct brigade / correct territory / National offices) votes on that ballot.

- C.** in order to assist the committee in ensuring that the ballots are “original and unique” and that the voter is a “member in good standing”, the name of the voter and/or their membership number must appear on the ballot. The committee will make sure that the ballots are counted, sealed, and delivered to the Chief Clerk
- D.** (added November 2, 2014) If a Brigade Booshway vacancy occurs in the first two-thirds of the term the impacted brigade may, at their own expense, hold an election to nominate and elect a new Brigade Booshway. If the Brigade does not wish to hold an election or there is no Hiveranno in the Brigade willing to fill the role, the Grand Council may consolidate the brigade with a neighboring brigade in order to provide members with representation.
- 1.** In the case of a special election for the Brigade Booshway, the Chief Clerk will work with the Party Booshways in the brigade, or lacking Party Booshways, will solicit nominations and distribute a ballot to the brigade, using first class US Mail.
 - 2.** Ballots will be returned, at the individual brigade members expense, to the Segundo of the territory in which the brigade resides
 - 3.** The Segundo will form an Election Committee as outlined in the By-laws, Article V, Sections D & F to count the returned votes
 - 4.** The Segundo will communicate the results to the Grand Council, and the Party Booshways of the impacted brigade, as well as the individual elected as the new Brigade Booshway
- E.** Individuals must have their Hiveranno degree before March 31st of the election year to submit their letters of intent and nomination, to be published in the June Moc Mail, and to have their name appear on the official ballot. Individuals wishing to be a write-in candidate must have their Hiveranno approved before the 'return by date' that is printed on the election ballot. **(added November 3, 2024).**
- F.** Candidates desiring to run for a director (Grand Council) position should submit a letter of intent to the editor of the Moccasin Mail stating their desire to run and for which office. The letter should

include a short summary which can be published in the Moccasin Mail. Letters of nomination should also be submitted to the editor of the Moccasin Mail. **(added January 19, 2025)**

ARTICLE XVI. AMM Property (amended April 17, 2016)

- A.** Each property should have a separate AMM Parent maintenance fund to help offset upkeep and maintenance, and a separate AMM Working fund.
- B.** The AMM maintains the Parent funding account with the main balance of funds, and the assigned land committee will maintain the Working Account that is initially funded from the AMM Parent account, then reimbursed based on provided receipts.
- C.** Spending thresholds and property plans shall be reviewed and approved by the AMM Grand Council.
- D.** Any effort that is part of a Grand Council approved plan for the site, and under the dollar threshold set by the Grand Council, can be pursued as long as funds are available. Any effort not part of a Grand Council approved plan for the site and/or not under the dollar threshold set by the Grand Council must be approved by the Grand Council before work is done.
- E.** Personal equipment used on AMM property needs to be removed when the owner of the equipment leaves the site. Equipment owners assume the risk of leaving equipment unsecured / unattended on AMM property.

ARTICLE XVII - AMM LOGO & EMBLEM

(Amended April 17, 2016) (Sections C3, D & E added June 10, 2018)

A. Walt Hayward, AMM Founder and Card #1, provided an overview of the history and use of the AMM Logo & Emblem. The purpose of this Standing Rule is to capture that historical information and help provide direction on the appropriate use of each graphic.

B. AMM Logo (Knife & Horn)

- 1.** Introduced by Walt Hayward, the first Capitaine of the American Mountain Men, and based upon an illustration that appeared in one of Allan W. Eckert's books.

STANDING RULES 2025_2-8

2. Walt Hayward contacted Allan Eckert to obtain permission to use the powder horn and knife artwork in the American Mountain Men logo. Mr. Eckert agreed that it was okay as long as it was not used for profit.
3. The knife & horn logo is to be used only by members of the Grand Council, national level rendezvous tokens, and on official AMM stationary. It is not to be used by the general membership.

C. AMM Emblem (Pistol & Powder Horn)

1. Walt McCurdy, a past Capitaine of the American Mountain Men, designed the pistol and powder horn emblem as a possible alternate logo in case conflict arose with the artist who created the knife and powder horn artwork.
2. The emblem is designated for use by the general AMM membership for Party and individual stationary, AMM sale items, and all other non-official AMM business purposes where the official logo is not authorized for use.
3. Emblem artwork without the term “American Mountain Men” attached is approved for use by members without permission.

D. Protocol for AMM Product Approval

1. Description of the product with a sketch or picture of said proposed item.
2. What is the purpose of the item and what is the benefit to the AMM?
3. Submit a financial disclosure of the proposed item to include the estimated item production cost, item selling price, proportion of the profit revenue to the AMM.
4. Is the item for AMM members only or open to the general public?
5. Item may not use the official logo or motto of the AMM but may use the emblem.
6. Once submitted to the Capitaine for approval, the proposed plan will be presented to the Grand Council and a decision made.

E. Use of Restricted AMM Items

Use of the AMM Logo, the term “American Mountain Men” and the motto “Aux Aliments de Pays” are controlled by the Standing Rules. The logo is for Grand Council official use only. The emblem has been for use by the general membership. However, since it contains the term “American Mountain Men” it is representative of the organization as a whole and falls under Standing Rules restrictions. The concern is that non-members may acquire items using the emblem and then represent themselves as belonging to the organization. In the past, the emblem has been used by members for window stickers, ball caps, mugs, etc., for commercial purposes without Grand Council approval. In the future, any commercial use of the restricted logos or elements must have the written permission of the Capitaine. Use of the emblem within the organization, i.e., stationary intended for internal organizational use or on websites, etc., is approved so long as it does not cross the line of commercial use and is not made available for non-member use. Emblem artwork without the term “American Mountain Men” attached (see below) is approved for use by non-members without permission.

Article XVIII - AMM Website (amended April 17, 2016)

A. the AMM Website will be officially **'theamericanmountainmen.org'**, but the organization has deemed it advisable to secure the following six (6) domain names in order to control them in the future.

theamericanmountainmen.org

theamericanmountainmen.net

theamericanmountainmen.com

americanmountainmen.org

americanmountainmen.net

americanmountainmen.com

B. the AMM annual budget will reflect planned annual expenses for the registration, maintenance and hosting of these sites.

American Mountain Men About the Logo, Motto & Emblem



AMM Logo

Introduced by Walt Hayward, the first Capitaine of the American Mountain Men, and based upon an illustration that appeared in one of Allan W. Eckert's books - possibly an early issue of *The Frontiersman*.

Walt Hayward had contacted Allan Eckert to obtain permission to use the powder horn and knife artwork in the American Mountain Men logo. Eckert agreed that it was okay as long as it was not used for profit.

The knife & horn logo was to be used only by members of the Grand Council, national level rendezvous tokens, and on official organization forms and stationery. It was not to be used by the general membership. Perhaps the only exception is the medallion that Walt Hayward makes, and that is only available to Bossloper or Hiveranno members.

Official AMM Motto:

Aux Aliments du Pays

Which is French for: "To live from the land"



AMM Emblem

Walt McCurdy, a past capitaine of the American Mountain Men, designed the pistol and powder horn emblem as a possible alternate logo in case conflict arose with the artist who created the knife & powder horn artwork.

Today the AMM Emblem is designated for use by the general AMM membership for Party and individual stationery, AMM sale items, and all other non-official AMM business purposes where the official Logo is not authorized for use.

The Phrase:

A Brotherhood of Men

Should not be referred to or used as an official motto of the AMM.

In the words of the Walt "Grizz" Hayward, Hvno, Card #1

"The 'official' and true logo is the one we started with, not the one Mac designed and I wish they would quit using. If I recall correctly you [Bob Valade] put a motion before the Grand Council that the original logo be maintained and it passed by all present, Mac included. However much I like 'a brotherhood of men,' and I do like it, it is not the motto of the A.M.M., 'Aux Aliments du Pays' is.

It explains the true meaning of the purpose of the Brotherhood as nothing else can which is why it was adopted in the first place."

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

AMM Articles of Incorporation

ARTICLE I

The name of this association shall be and remain: “the AMERICAN MOUNTAIN MEN.”

ARTICLE II

The specific and primary purpose for which this association is formed is to establish and maintain a permanent association for research into and the study of the history, tradition, tools, mode of living, etc., of the trappers, explorers and traders known as the Mountain Men. Further purposes are to establish and maintain a permanent museum and research center to house and make available books, artifacts, films, speaker, etc., to provide a means for the dissemination of information related to our purposes and objectives; to provide a continuous program of living history to teach the skills and help develop the abilities which were actually needed and used by the original Mountain Men; to help preserve the right of all free men to keep and bear arms; to help preserve our native wilderness and wildlife by teaching and practicing realistic conservation; to help establish brotherhood and trust between our members and to help our members find the deep affinity with nature that is a basic and necessary trait of all true Mountain Men.

ARTICLE III

This corporation is organized pursuant to the general non-profit laws of the State of Wyoming.

ARTICLE IV

Temporary headquarter for this association shall be located at 12067 Riverside Drive, Lakeside, California 92040 (temporary mailing address: The American Mountain Men, P.O. Box 259, Lakeside, California 92040). Permanent headquarters shall be established and located in the Rocky Mountains: time and place of actual location to be at the discretion of the Grand Council.

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

ARTICLE V

All monies and/or properties accrued by this association shall be used only for the advancement of the purpose, projects and objectives of this association.

ARTICLE VI

This corporation is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.

ARTICLE VII

Notwithstanding any other provision of the e articles. the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (c) (a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law) or (b) by a corporation contribution to which are deductible under Section 107(c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United Sates Internal Revenue Law).

ARTICLE VIII

Upon the winding up and dissolution of this corporation and after paying or adequately providing for the debt and obligation of the corporation. the remaining assets shall be distributed to a non-profit fund. foundation or corporation which is organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, or religious and/or scientific purposes and which has established its tax exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

ARTICLE IX

This association shall have members, the membership to be divided into types. Qualifications of membership, method of selection of new members, terms of admission into membership and qualifications for types of membership shall be fully covered by the corporation by-laws.

Any requirements, tests, etc. necessary for continuation of membership or for advancement to higher types of membership shall be found in the corporation by-laws and/or standing rules.

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

Method of changing said requirements, tests. etc. shall be covered in the corporation by-laws.

ARTICLE X

The duration of this corporation shall be perpetual unless dissolved sooner according to the corporation by-laws and the non-profit laws of the State of Wyoming.

ARTICLE XI

The governing board of this corporation shall be The Grand Council. Officers, terms of office. mode of election, powers of The Grand Council and qualifications for serving on The Grand Council shall be fully covered in the corporation by-laws.

The Directors at the time of incorporation are:

1. Walter J . McCurdy
P.O. Box. 1310
Crestline. CA 92325

2. Mike Katona
P. O. Box 402
San Mateo. NM 84050

3. Russell McGuire
1423 Willie Grace Road
Glasgow, KY 42141

4. Larry Mayes
08 Rachel Drive
Goodlettsville, TN 37072

5. Stewart Ellis
7224 Cairo-Lile Road
Henderson, KY 42420

6. Albert Wilde
McKinnon, WY 82938

7. Dan S. Wilde
6921 Bomar Drive
Cheyenne. WY 82009

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

ARTICLE XII

The member of The Grand Council selected to be registered agent for the purpose of incorporation in the State of Wyoming is Albert Wilde.

1212 Birchcreek Rd
McKinnon, Wyoming 82938

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has executed these Articles of Incorporation in duplicate this, 14 day of July, 1989.

(Signed)

Dan S. Wilde

STATE OF WYOMING) ss.

COUNTY OF LARAMIE)

Subscribed and sworn to before me *by* Dan S. Wilde *this* 14 day of July, 1989.

Witness my hand and official seal.

Kari S. Rayment

Notary Public

NOTES

Articles of Incorporation, 1, 3, 7,
10, 14, 16, 17, 33, 39, 51, 54
Association Directors, 6
Bossloper, 2, 5, 21, 22, 23, 26, 27,
29, 35, 38, 42
Brigade Booshway, 2, 8, 13, 18,
21, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 37, 38, 39,
45
Capitaine, 3, 2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 12, 13,
15, 16, 18, 21, 26, 31, 34, 35, 37,
38, 39, 43, 47, 48
Chief Clerk, 7, 8, 9, 15, 19, 23, 28,
29, 38, 40, 44, 45
Chief Purser, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14,
32, 33, 36, 37, 38, 40, 41
DISMISSAL, 5, 10
election, 2, 10, 33, 38, 44, 45, 53
Foreign members, 2, 6
Grand Council, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11,
12, 13, 14, 16, 18, 22, 26, 28, 29,
30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38,
39, 40, 41, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 51,
53, 54

Gray Beard, 6, 10, 26, 29, 35
GRAY BEARD, 5
hiveranno, 2
Hiveranno, 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11,
12, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 29, 32, 33,
35, 36, 38, 42, 45
HIVERANNO, 6
Junior member, 6, 27
Master Trapper, 27, 28
MEMBERSHIP, 5, 6, 1, 2, 21, 22,
23, 27
motto, 17, 43, 48
Parties, 15
probationary, 2, 6, 11, 15, 22, 27
prospective member, 1
requirements, 2, 5, 21, 23, 24, 26,
27, 31, 32, 35, 38, 52
Segundo, 1, 2, 7, 8, 13, 18, 21, 23,
26, 28, 34, 38, 39, 45
sponsorship, 22
TRADEMARKS, 6, 43

NOTES