

# Standing Rules of the American Mountain Men

[Updated February 8, 2025]

## **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 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.

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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 Brother 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 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 sponsor(s). 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 Booshway, 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.

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- 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.
  - a.** 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.
  - a.** 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.
  - a.** One method or a combination may be used.
  - b.** Bullboat may be used in place of canoe.
  - c.** You are expected to gain as much distance as possible.
  - d.** 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.

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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 lifestyle 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 (GC) 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 Booshway 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.

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## **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 public and/or membership.
  - a. By doing educational programs for the public such as at Rendezvous, museums, Boy Scouts, schools, or other like groups.
  - b. Or have given Rocky Mountain Colleges at AMM camps.

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- 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.

## 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 Grand Council 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 Grand Council 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 are 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 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

- 1. 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.

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2. 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)
- AZ, NM Brigade
- IA, MO, KS Brigade

### **Eastern Territory (Amended January 29, 2023)**

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

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## 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. **(Amended January 23, 2022)**

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.



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## 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

## F. 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)**

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- 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:
  - 1. Requestor to send written request
  - 2. Requestor to provide the funding required for copying material and postage.
  - 3. 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 (Gray Beard dues “optional at the Gray 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 Gray Beard’s discretion” Dues, “optional at the Master Trapper’s 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 1<sup>st</sup>.
- 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 reinstatement 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)**

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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 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 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 Funds (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.

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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 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 furthers the studies and sharing of information about the western fur trade of 1800 to 1840. **(Added April 2023)**

## ARTICLE XI. CHAPTERS OF THIS ASSOCIATION

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.

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**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 land owner 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 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 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.
- 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.

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**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 3<sup>rd</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

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**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, leggings and certain "Long hunter 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 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 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** (Amended August 5, 2018)

The use of the name "American Mountain Men", the Association logo, the Association Emblem, 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) (Section B revised April 19, 2020)**

- A.** The *Moccasin 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 *Moccasin Mail* (that is, not just one of the printed pages within the actual *Moccasin Mail* edition).

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2. A "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/mailling process (printing, envelope addressing, stamping, mailing) by the *Moccasin Mail* editor is preferred to mirror the mailing list of the *Moccasin Mail* to 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 Election 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 Election 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 shall count only the correct (Brigade/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.** 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. **(Added November 2, 2014)**
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.



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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 31<sup>st</sup> of the election year to submit their letters of intent and nomination, to be published in the June MocMail, 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.

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## 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.
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

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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.

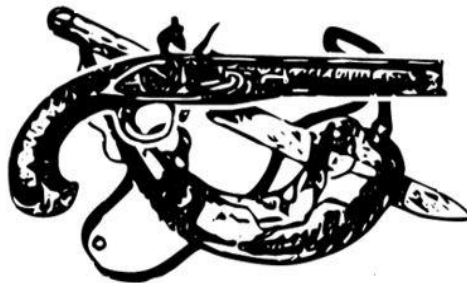
## Logos



## Emblem



## Emblem Artwork



## ARTICLE XVIII - AMM WEBSITE (Amended April 17, 2016)

**A.** The AMM Website will be officially '[theamericanmountainmen.org](http://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](http://theamericanmountainmen.org)  
[theamericanmountainmen.net](http://theamericanmountainmen.net)  
[theamericanmountainmen.com](http://theamericanmountainmen.com)  
[americanmountainmen.org](http://americanmountainmen.org)  
[americanmountainmen.net](http://americanmountainmen.net)  
[americanmountainmen.com](http://americanmountainmen.com)

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