

**THE MAINE TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION
BY-LAWS**

**ARTICLE I
NAME**

SECTION 1. The name of this corporation shall be Maine Trappers Association (hereinafter called MTA)

**ARTICLE II
PURPOSES**

SECTION 1. PURPOSES.

This corporation is organized and shall be operated:

- A. To provide an organization within which people through individual membership with common interests in conservation, wildlife habitat, furbearing animals and wise use of natural resources and the enjoyment of nature in all its aspects, may recognize their common interests, and have a means of expressing and furthering their interests.
- B. The MTA will cooperate with the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, individually, and as a whole, when we believe by popular vote at our Conventions, the changes are for the betterment of trapping conditions, and the protection of furbearing animals, other wildlife and fish.
- C. The MTA membership will promote and encourage the proper management of our fur resources by all the people.
- D. The MTA, as part of the overall community, will encourage proper conduct of its members through trapper education, ecological conservation and the promotion of more humane trapping techniques.
- E. To work with industry, agriculture and government to arrive at workable and logical solutions to problems relating to outdoor sporting activities and the harvest of the renewable natural resources.
- F. The MTA will strive to cultivate a feeling of good will and mutual understanding through a proper respect of the rights of land owners and the general public at all times.

G. In furtherance, but not in limitation to, of the foregoing purposes the corporation shall have the power and authority:

1. To receive and administer funds and contributions received by gift, deed, bequest, or devise, and otherwise to acquire money, securities, property, rights and services, of every kind and description and to hold, invest, expend, contribute, use, sell, or otherwise dispose of any money, securities, property, rights of services so acquired for the purposes above mentioned.
2. To borrow money and to make, accept, endorse, execute, and issue bonds, debentures, promissory notes, and other corporate obligations for money borrowed or in payment for property acquired, or for any of the purposes of the corporation, and to secure payment of any such obligation by mortgage, pledge, deed, indenture, agreement, or any other instrument of trust, or by other lien upon, assignment of, or agreement in regard to all or any part of the property, rights, or privileges of the corporation.
3. To invest or reinvest its funds in such mortgages, bonds, notes, debentures, shares of preferred and common stock, and any other securities of any kind whatsoever, and property, real, personal, or mixed, tangible, or intangible, all as the corporation's Executive Committee shall deem advisable and as may be permitted by law.
4. To do all such other acts as are necessary or convenient to accomplish the objects and purposes herein set forth to the same extent and as fully as any natural person could or might do and as are not forbidden by law or by the Certificate of Incorporation or these By-Laws.
5. To have all powers that may be conferred upon charitable corporations formed under the laws of the State of Maine governing corporations without capital stock.

SECTION 2. EXCLUSION OF PRIVATE GAIN OR BENEFIT AND DISSOLUTION OF THE CORPORATION.

1. No part of any net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of any member or individual. Upon any dissolution of the corporation, no member shall be entitled to any distribution or division of its remaining property or its proceeds.
2. If for any reason it becomes necessary to dissolve this corporation, any property remaining after payment of the just debts of the corporation shall be transferred to such other corporation, association, trust fund or foundation of a like nature as the members by majority vote shall determine, to be administered and used in such manner as will best accomplish the general purpose for which this corporation is organized.

**ARTICLE III
MEMBERSHIP AND MEETINGS OF MEMBERS**

SECTION 1. MEMBERSHIP.

Membership of the Corporation is open to all persons subscribing to its purposes upon payment of dues and approval by a majority of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee may refuse, cancel and void membership to the corporation of any person having been found guilty of trapping violations and/or unethical trapping, or conduct that is detrimental to the good order of the corporation and/or its public perception. (approved 5/2014)

1. Membership of the corporation shall consist of six classes: (approved 5/97)
 1. Regular member\$25.00 per year (approved 5/2012, effective 5/2012)
 2. Supporting members\$30.00 per year (approved 9/2012, effective 9/2012)
 3. Life Member, Senior\$250.00 (approved 5/2012, effective 5/2012)
 4. Life Member, Regular (under age 65 yrs)\$500.00 (approved 5/2012, effective 5/2012)
 5. Junior Member (age 15 yrs & under)\$5.00 per year (approved 9/88, effective 1/1/89)
 6. Family Membership (2 adults and all unmarried children under 18 yrs old) (approved 9/2012, effective 9/2012)\$30.00

2. There are three life time support (endowment) categories which are:
 - Patron..... \$200.00
 - Benefactor..... \$500.00
 - Endowment..... \$1200.00(approved 5/2014)

SECTION 2. ANNUAL MEETINGS

The annual meetings of the members of this corporation shall be held on any Sunday in May and in any weekend of September in each year. The election of officers and presentation of annual reports shall take place at the September meeting. Such meetings may be adjourned from time to time until business is completed. (approved 5/2016)

SECTION 3. NOTICE OF MEETINGS

The officers and the Executive Committee shall notify the membership as to location of the annual meeting at least ten (10) days before the meeting by newsletter, telephone, or other electronic device. (approved 5/2014)

SECTION 4. SPECIAL MEETINGS

Special meetings of the members may be called at any time by the President or by vote of the Executive Committee, and shall be called upon the written request of at least ten percent of the membership.

SECTION 4A. MEETING CONDUCT

All meetings (annual, special, or committee) of the corporation will be conducted in accordance Robert’s Rules of Order. (approved 5/2014)

SECTION 5. QUORUM AND VOTING

At all meetings of the members, except as may be otherwise provided by law, there shall be present in person at least four percent (4%) of the paid-up members in order to constitute a quorum, but any less number may adjourn a meeting from time to time until a quorum shall be present. At all meetings of the members, each member present in person shall be entitled to the following:

- Regular Member1 vote
 - Supporting Member1 vote
 - Junior Member1 vote
 - Lifetime Member1 vote
 - Senior Lifetime Member1 vote
 - Honorary Lifetime Member1 vote
 - Family Membership1 vote per family
- (approved 5/2014)

and the act of a majority of the members present and voting at such meeting shall be the act of the members. (approved 5/7/95)

SECTION 6. NOMINATION OF OFFICERS

Officer nominations are accomplished by the Nominating Committee. The nominations for office are to be gathered by the Chapter Directors at their meetings scheduled prior to June and submitted to the committee no later than 1 June. Nominations may also be submitted by mail by members at large with ballots and directions posted in the MTA news letter issued in April. The committee shall verify that all candidates are qualified in accordance with the By-Laws. The Chairman of the Nominating Committee shall post the qualified nominee’s on the MTA website no later than 15 July, and post again at the annual election prior to the ballots being made available for voting. (approved 5/2014)

SECTION 7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Members may vote for nominated officers by absentee ballot if they are unable to attend the annual meeting to vote. Those nominated for each office shall appear in the membership's last newsletter (July) distributed prior to the annual meeting held in September. All absentee ballots mailed must be received no later than two weeks (14 days) prior to the September meeting for purposes of validation and verification. They are to be mailed or delivered to the Nominating Committee as indicated in the newsletter. The Tellers Chairman will announce the person elected to each office at the annual meeting. If there is an election tie, a member's present vote will determine the elected. (approved 5/2014)

ARTICLE IV

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND MEETINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

SECTION 1. NUMBER, ELECTION AND QUALIFICATIONS

The corporation shall be governed by an Executive Committee consisting of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Editor, and one representative from each properly organized chapter (approved 5/3/81).

The Membership Secretary, Director-at-Large North, Director-at-Large South, the NTA Director and the Director of Trapper Education shall also have voting status at Executive Committee and Membership meetings. (approved 5/2014)

Past presidents of the MTA shall be members of the Executive Committee for a period of one year following their term of office as MTA President. (approved 5/4/80)

SECTION 2. POWERS AND DUTIES

The Executive Committee shall have general power to manage and control the affairs and property of the corporation, and the funds of the corporation shall be expended or applied in accordance with the purposes of the corporation only as may be directed by authorization of the Executive Committee. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Executive Committee shall have the following specific powers:

1. To call a meeting of the members whenever they deem it necessary by giving notice thereof as required by the By-Laws.
2. To make rules and regulations not inconsistent with these By-Laws for the guidance of the officers and management of the business and affairs of the corporation.
3. To incur such indebtedness as they may deem necessary not contrary to the laws of the State of Maine.
4. To purchase and sell any and all lands, buildings, and any and all other property which they may deem necessary or beneficial to the business of the corporation.

5. To authorize the issuance of any notes, bonds, or other obligations of the corporation and pledges or mortgages of its property.

6. To fix the compensation, if any is deemed advisable, of all officers and employees.

SECTION 3. COMMITTEES AND AGENTS

1. The Executive Committee may appoint committees, agents, and officers, and may confer upon or delegate to them such powers not inconsistent with law or express provision of these By-Laws as they may deem necessary or advisable, and shall have power to remove them at pleasure.

2. There shall be the following standing committees to meet at least annually: Budget, Nominating, Legislative, Public Relations, and Membership. The Budget and Legislative Committees to consist of 3 Executive Committee members and 2 members from the membership at large, appointed by the Executive Committee. The Legislative Committee shall be responsible for seeking and qualifying the Legislative Lobbyist for the MTA. The Executive Committee shall contract the Lobbyist. (approved 5/2014)

3. The Executive Committee may appoint a Representative Committee to assist the MTA in matters between the MTA and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. The President shall Chair this committee with 2 Directors appointed by the Executive Committee. (approved 5/2014)

4. The Executive Committee shall appoint a Trapper Education Director, Membership Director and Directors at Large. The Directors at Large may be a member of a local chapter but while holding that position may not hold any office of a chapter. (approved 5/2014)

SECTION 4. MEETINGS

Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held at any time at the call of the President but not less than three month intervals.

SECTION 5. QUORUM

A simple majority of the Executive Committee (defined in ARTICLE IV Section 1) shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but any less number may adjourn any meeting from time to time until a quorum shall be present.

SECTION 6. PLACE OF MEETING

Meetings of the Executive Committee may be held at such place or places as may be designated in the notice of the meeting.

SECTION 7. NOTICE OF MEETINGS

Notice of any meetings of the Executive Committee shall be sufficient if served personally, if given by telephone or other electronic device, or if placed in the mails with postage prepaid addressed to each committee member at his last known post office address, at least 10 days before the meeting. Any meeting of the Executive Committee shall be deemed validly held and no notice thereof shall be required in the event that all committee members shall sign a waiver of notice thereof, either before or after the meeting, which notice shall be lodged with the records of such meeting.
(approved 5/2014)

ARTICLE V OFFICERS

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF OFFICERS

The officers of the corporation shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Editor.

SECTION 2. ELECTION AND TERM OF OFFICE

The officers of the corporation shall be elected by secret ballot at the annual meeting. All of the officers herein named shall hold office for one year and until their successors have been elected and qualified, except in the event of resignation or disqualification.

SECTION 3. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENT

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Executive Committee and of the members; and in general shall perform all duties incident to the office of President and such duties as the Executive Committee may from time to time prescribe.

SECTION 4. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

The Vice President shall perform all duties of the President in the absence of the President and such other duties as may be assigned to him by the President.

SECTION 5. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY

The Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings of the corporation and members shall perform all duties incident to the office prescribed by law or these By-Laws. (Approved 5/3/81)

SECTION 5 A. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE TREASURER

The Treasurer shall have the care and custody of all the funds and securities of the corporation and shall deposit the same in the name of the corporation in such bank, banks, or trust companies as the Executive Committee may from time to time designate. The treasurer shall sign checks, drafts, notes, and subject to ARTICLE 7, shall execute in the name of the corporation deeds, mortgages, contracts, and other instruments, unless the Executive Committee shall otherwise determine; provided however that any promissory note of the corporation must be countersigned by the President or by at least 3 members of the Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall, at any meeting of the members of the

Executive Committee, upon request present a full statement of the finances of the corporation, and shall perform such duties as may from time to time be assigned to them by the President. (approved 5/2014)

SECTION 6. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE EDITOR

The Editor shall issue a quarterly newsletter. Issue special notification on matters affecting the Association and where membership support is required on such issues as Anti-Trap Legislation, Legislative Hearings, etc. (approved 5/2014)

SECTION 7. BOND

The Executive Committee may at any time require any officer of the corporation to give security to the corporation for the faithful performance of his duties in such sum and with such surety as the Executive Committee may require.

SECTION 8. VACANCIES

Any vacancy occurring among the officers and employees of the corporation may be filled by the Executive Committee for the unexpired balance of any term in such office or position.

ARTICLE VI LOCAL CHAPTERS

SECTION 1. LOCAL CHAPTERS

It shall be the policy of the MTA to promote Chapter formation in accordance with the following:

1. At least 10 MTA members shall petition the Executive Committee for authorization to form a Chapter.
2. The area to be served is sufficiently defined to enable the Executive Committee to prevent the duplication of Chapter territory.

SECTION 2. DUTIES

Chapters shall have the following duties:

1. Annual election of officers in each chapter shall be completed each year before the annual meeting of MTA (approved 9/14/80) which is held in the month of September each year (approved 5/94)
2. Assess potential MTA member's sufficient dues to enroll each in the MTA if so desired. (approved 5/2016)
3. Hold not less than 4 meetings per year.

4. Approved minutes of each meeting shall be maintained by the Chapter. (approved 5/2014)
5. Elect a member to serve on the MTA Executive Committee.
6. Actively promote participation in and attendance at all MTA meetings and functions.
7. Maintain at least 10 active members and submit a membership list to the President of MTA no later than November 1st of each year.
8. Chapters will actively support the goals and purposes of the MTA as listed in ARTICLE II.
9. The Executive Committee shall be empowered to require membership lists for any local chapter in such form and frequency as they deem necessary to insure compliance with these By-Laws; any local chapter which is in default of any provision of these By-Laws, shall upon majority vote of those MTA members present at the next annual meeting have its MTA affiliation status terminated and it shall lose all of its rights and privileges Hereunder. (approved 5/2014)

SECTION 3. CHAPTER BENEFITS

Chapters shall have at least the following privileges and rights:

1. Protection under ARTICLE X of these By-Laws.
2. Space in the MTA Newsletter for publishing Chapter activities.
3. Access and use of all MTA equipment and services.
4. A vote on the Executive Committee.
5. The right to be represented on all MTA standing committees.

ARTICLE VII CONTRACTS

The Executive Committee may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents, in the name of and on behalf of the Corporation, to enter into any contract or to execute under the corporate seal or otherwise and to deliver any instrument, and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances; and unless so authorized, no officer or agent or employees shall have the power or authority, to bind the corporation by any contract or engagement or in any amount.

**ARTICLE VIII
FISCAL YEAR**

The Fiscal year of the Corporation shall commence with the first day of September and shall terminate with the thirty-first day of August in each calendar year.

**ARTICLE IX
AMENDMENTS**

These By-Laws may be altered, added to or amended or rescinded at any meeting of the members by the affirmative vote of a majority of all the members present at a meeting, provided that in the call for the meeting, notice is given of the proposed alteration, amendment or rescindment; provided further, however, that the foregoing shall not apply to ARTICLE II of these By-Laws.
(approved 5/2014)

**ARTICLE X
INDEMNIFICATION OF DIRECTORS, OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES AND AGENTS**

Any person (including the heirs, executors, and administrator of such person) who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative (including any action or suit by or in the right of the corporation to procure a judgment in its favor) by reason of the fact that: (a) he is or was a member of the Executive Committee or officer of the corporation; or (b) he is or was a member of the Executive Committee or officer of the corporation and is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a member of the Executive Committee, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, shall be indemnified by the corporation, if, as, and to the extent authorized by the laws of the State of Maine, against all liabilities and expenses, including attorney's fees, judgments, fines and penalties and amounts paid in settlement, actually and reasonably incurred by him in connection with the defense or settlement of such action, suit or proceeding. The corporation may indemnify any person (including the heirs, executors and administrators of such person), who is or was an employee or agent of the corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a member of the Executive Committee, officer employee, or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise to the extent and under the circumstance provided by this ARTICLE X and by the laws of the State of Maine, shall not be deemed exclusive, insofar as permitted by, or any other rights to which any person indemnified may be entitled under any By-Law, agreement, vote of members or disinterested members of the Executive Committee or otherwise or upon vote of the Executive Committee. (approved 5/2/82)