**By–Laws**

**Of**

**The Minnesota Sheriffs’ Mounted Posse Association, Incorporated**

**Article I**

**Name**

Section 1. The members do hereby voluntarily join themselves together for the purpose of organizing an incorporated non-profit organization, the name of which shall be, “The Minnesota Sheriffs’ Mounted Posse Association, Incorporated.

**Article II**

**Objective**

Section 1. To help maintain the high esprit de corps within all Sheriffs’ Departments in the State of Minnesota; to assist in the organization of posses within the State of Minnesota when called upon to do so; to be public spirited; to promote good fellowship; to cooperate with all peace officers within the State of Minnesota; and to promote the love of good horses.

**Article III**

**Membership**

Section 1. Any duly and regularly deputized posse or mounted patrol unit of the State of Minnesota and its bordering counties shall be eligible for membership in this Association upon its application and proper showing of organization and deputation by a regularly authorized sheriff, and also upon its expression of a willingness to comply with purpose, rules and regulations of this Association.

Section 2. All paid – up (as certified by the posse member secretary) posse members of member posses shall be entitled to individual membership.

Section 3. Any Sheriff and Posse President, Captain or Unit Leader can make application to become an Associate Posse from their respective County, to include all Counties and bordering Counties of the State of Minnesota. The Associate Membership dues shall be $10.00 (ten Dollars) annually. Associate members will be granted all privileges and benefits of this Organization with the following restrictions:

1. Associate Posse members shall be without voting rights
2. No Associate member shall be eligible to hold an elected office in the Minnesota Sheriffs’ Mounted Posse Association, Inc.

Section4. All regular deputies of any sheriff’s department of the State of Minnesota maintaining a posse within their County will be entitled to individual Associate membership by the payment of dues as set forth under Article IV, Section 2.

Section 5. Any active member of a mounted posse that is not a member of this Association will be entitled to Individual Membership. The Individual Membership dues shall be $15.00 (fifteen dollars) annually. Individual members will be granted all privileges and benefits of this Organization with the following restrictions:

1. Individual members shall be without voting rights
2. No Individual member shall be eligible to hold an elected office in the Minnesota Sheriffs’ Mounted Posse Association, Inc.

Section 6. To include honorary membership as set forth under article X of the Articles of Incorporation.

**Article IV**

**Fees & Dues**

Section 1. The initiation fee for posse membership in this association shall be $10.00 (ten dollars)

Section 2. The annual dues per posse membership shall be $40.00 (Forty dollars) per year plus an additional ~~$1.00 (one dollar)~~ $3.00 (three dollars) per year for each member of the posse, payable on or before the date of the annual meeting of the Association. $20.00 (Twenty dollars) of the annual dues shall be applied to the General Operating fund and $20.00 (Twenty dollars shall be marked for the General Disaster funds, to be used for donations for disasters affecting any member or County, or memorials for any fallen officer or as defined by the board. At such time that the General Disaster fund monies reach $1500.00 (Fifteen Hundred dollars), any further monies from annual membership dues shall be transferred to the Don Eustice Scholarship fund, other Scholarship funds or the General Operating fund at the discretion of the board.

Section 3. Proceeds provided to the Association from the County hosting the annual Wagon Train shall be distributed $1000.00 (One Thousand dollars) to the Don Eustice Scholarship fund or MSMPA Scholarship fund, at the discretion of the board, and the balance to the Children's Hospital in the form of a donation.

**Article V**

**Voting**

Section 1. Only member posses in good standing at the time voting privileges is exercised, shall be entitled to send 1 (one) authorized representative along with the current elected Captain or Unit Leader as representative with voting power to the annual and all other meetings of the Association. An alternate representative maybe authorized for the first representative only, if submitted in accordance with Article V, Section 2. No posse may cast more than 2 (two) votes. All votes will be authenticated by roll call vote on all business transacted during an annual or special meeting. All elected officers as listed in Article X; Section 1 may vote or abstain on all issues of business that may be presented at any meeting of the Organization.

Section 2. Member posses shall notify the Secretary of the Association in writing the name of representative from each member posse who shall have the authority to vote on behalf of such member posse.

Section 3. The County hosting the annual meeting (state convention) shall contribute from the proceeds $1500.00 (Fifteen Hundred dollars) to the MSMPA Scholarship fund and $500.00 (Five Hundred dollars) to the General Operating fund. The County hosting the annual meeting (state convention) shall attend the two prior scheduled Association meetings, typically in January and March, to provide a convention preparation update to the membership body.

**Article VI**

**Annual Meeting**

Section1. The annual meeting of this Association shall be on the first Saturday of April of each year, or on the date near the first Saturday of April of each year, or on a date near the first Saturday of April, and the Secretary shall mail or electronic mail notice of the annual meeting to member posses at least 60 (sixty) days in advance thereof.

Section 2. Special meetings may be called at any time by the President upon giving 15 (fifteen) days’ notice thereof to the member posses. Such notice shall contain a statement of the subject matter or matters for discussion at such special meeting.

**Article VII**

**Quorum**

Section 1. A quorum for the Annual or any special meeting shall be the sum of voting representatives from posses in attendance and not less than 4 (four) of the elected Officers of the Association. 3/6/2001

**Article VIII**

**Governing Body or Board of Directors**

Section 1. The governing body or board of directors shall consist of the President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Third Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer, Publicity Directory, and Immediate Past President, who shall serve in their capacity as Directors until their successors are elected and qualified.

**Article IX**

**Elections**

Section 1. The election of officers of this Association shall be held at the spring quarterly meeting. The spring quarterly meeting shall be held open until the annual meeting (as designated in Article VI, Section1) at which time new officers shall assume office.

Section 2. Any member of a member posse in good standing shall be eligible for nomination for any off of this Association except Associate members.

**Article X**

**Officers**

Section 1. The officers of this Association shall be as follows: President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Third Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer & publicity Director. Each officer shall serve until his/her successor is elected & qualified.

Section 2. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association and also all meeting of the governing body or board of directors. He/she shall have executive powers and general supervision over the affairs of the Association. He/She shall appoint, unless otherwise directed from the floor by motion, all committees and be an ex-officio member of all committees and to remove members of all committees.

Section 3. In the absence or disability of the president, the duties of his/her office shall devolve upon the First Vice- President, Second Vice- President and Third Vice- President in their respective order to the end that there shall be a presiding officer present at all meeting.

Section 4. The Secretary/ Treasurer shall have custody of all papers, records and documents of the Association as may be required. He/She shall prepare and keep such forms and records as may be required for its efficient administration. He/She shall issue all notices required and conduct the correspondence of the Association. He/She shall have control of the Association finances and collect all receipts and make all disbursements subject to the supervision of the governing body or board of directors.

**Article XI**

**Adoption of by-laws and amendment thereof**

Section1. The original by-laws for this association shall be adopted only by a two-thirds majority of the member posse vote present at the 1967 annual meeting.

Section 2. Any member posse proposing an amendment of these by-laws shall submit such proposed amendment to the Secretary/Treasurer of the Minnesota Sheriffs’ Mounted Posse Association, Inc.

Section 3. Amendments to these by-laws may be adopted at any annual or special meeting by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the member posse representatives present at such meeting. Notice of amendment of these by- laws shall be given at least 60 (sixty) days prior to such annual or special meeting; such notice shall contain a copy of the proposed amendment to the by-laws.

The above by-laws have been amended during annual meetings as follows:

April 7, 1968 (Original bylaws) April 15, 1969 April 7, 1970 April 2, 1973

April 8, 1984 April 2, 1994 March 6, 2001 March 21, 2015

March 28, 2020