

MERRYMEETING AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION



of MIDCOAST MAINE

Governing
By-Laws

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Article 1. Name

Section 1.1 This organization shall hereafter be known as the "Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Association" (MARA).

Article 2. Purpose

Section 2.1 The purpose of this association shall be to promote the exchange of information and cooperation among members to cultivate the general interest of the Amateur Radio Service and its service to the general community.

Article 3. Membership

Section 3.1 Membership in this association shall be open to all persons whose interest is the advancement of the Amateur Radio Service and the Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Association.

Section 3.2 Membership shall be of three classes:

(a) FULL MEMBER:

- (i) An individual that pays dues
- (ii) Has voting rights.
- (iii) May hold office.

(b) FULL FAMILY MEMBER:

- (i) An individual who pays dues at a reduced rate
- (ii) Lives in the same household and is related to a Full Member
- (iii) Has voting rights
- (iv) May hold office

(c) HONORARY MEMBER:

- (i) An individual that pays no dues
- (ii) has no voting rights**
- (iii) may not hold office**

Section 3.3 DEFINITION – A member in good standing is a member whose dues are paid in full.

Section 3.4 Honorary members may be proposed by a member in good standing, approved by the Executive Board, and receive a simple majority vote by membership in attendance at a general meeting.

Section 3.5 A member may be expelled from this association whose willful or deliberate acts may discredit the Amateur Radio Service or the Merrymeeting Amateur Radio

Association. Expulsion will result upon a majority vote by the Executive Board. Expelled persons have the right of appeal to the Executive Board within sixty (60) days of official expulsion notification.

Article 4. Dues and Fees

- Section 4.1 The annual dues will be as established by the General Membership and shall be published in the Association News Letter.
- Section 4.2 Membership Fees (dues) will be due and payable on the yearly membership anniversary of the individual member.
- Section 4.3 Members may pay their dues in advance. If membership lapses, no “back dues” will be assessed and the member will have a new, current anniversary date.
- Section 4.4 Special assessments may be proposed by the Executive Board and approved by a simple majority vote of the general membership in attendance at an open general meeting.

Article 5. Officers and Executive Board

- Section 5.1 The Executive Board shall consist of seven (7) elected officers, consisting of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and three (3) Directors.
- Section 5.2 Members of the Executive Board will be elected for a two-year term, four (4) in even years and three (3) in odd years. Executive Board members may serve consecutive terms.
- Section 5.3 Annual election of the Executive Board will be held during the last quarter of the calendar year.
- Section 5.4 The President may appoint a nominating committee to choose nominees for the Executive Board to be presented to the general membership during the annual election. Nominations may also be submitted by the general membership at an open meeting. The nominees shall be members in good standing with the association.
- Section 5.5 The Executive Board will vote among themselves to elect a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer at the meeting following the election.
- Section 5.6 In the case of a vacancy on the Executive Board, the President shall appoint a member who is in good standing to fill the existing vacancy. Such appointee(s) shall serve only the remaining term. If the vacancy is the President, the Vice-President automatically becomes President for the remainder of the term. In the case of a vacancy of both the president and vice president, the remaining

executive board members will appoint directors to serve out the remainder of the vacant board member terms.

Section 5.7 Members of the Executive Board may be recalled from office. A recall petition may be submitted by ten (10) or more members who are in good standing with the association. Upon submission of the recall petition, the Executive Board will send out a written notice informing them of the vote to be taken at an upcoming general meeting. The recall vote will be performed by secret ballot and will require a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members in attendance at the general meeting.

Section 5.8 The Club Station (Callsign) Trustee is a member in good standing elected by the Executive Board for a term of ten (10) years. The Trustee may serve consecutive terms. The Trustee is an honorary member of the Executive Board. The Trustee is allowed to vote at Executive Board meetings only to break a tie vote. The Club Station Trustee can be nominated, voted into office and become a full member of the Executive Board.

Article 6. Duties of the Executive Board

Section 6.1 The President will preside at all meetings of the association. The President can call special meetings, appoint all standing committee chairpersons (i.e., Technical, Membership, Rules, Program/Events, etc.) and is the chairperson of the Executive Board. The President shall be ex-officio member of all committees with the exception of the nominating committee. The president has the authority to grant expenditures to any of the standing committees up to one-hundred and fifty dollars (\$150) without approval of the general membership or executive board.

Section 6.2 The Vice-President shall assume all the duties of the President during his or her absence.

Section 6.3 The Secretary shall record proceedings of all meetings and attend to all correspondence of the association.

Section 6.4 The Treasurer shall receive all monies, shall deposit all monies in the association banking accounts as directed, shall pay all association bills as directed, shall maintain account of all receipts and disbursements, and be prepared to submit all books for audit upon proper notification. Only the Treasurer, or the Bank/Savings institution account Trustee can sign association checks. The treasurer can only make reimbursements upon receipt of proper documentation i.e. receipts/invoices and board approval/general membership approval/president approval as appropriate.

- Section 6.5 The Treasurer shall have discretionary funds of up to \$25/month with a maximum of \$150/year, for club and meeting expenses.
- Section 6.6 The Executive Board shall make no single expenditure of more than one hundred US dollars (\$100) for normal operation expenses of the association without approval of the general membership. General membership is defined as one-quarter of the membership for application of this section.
- Section 6.7 The Executive Board shall arrange for an audit of the Treasurer's books at the expiration point of the Treasurer's office. Should the Treasurer be re-elected, the audit shall then be done annually.

Article 7. Meetings

- Section 7.1 General meetings will be held at an established time and place as determined by the Executive Board. The attending membership and not fewer than three (3) Executive Board members constitute a quorum at a general membership meeting.
- Section 7.2 Special meetings will be held when called by the President. The general membership must be notified at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to the special meeting.
- Section 7.3 The Executive Board meets when called by the President. This meeting shall be held prior to the general meeting. Four (4) Executive Board members constitute a quorum at an Executive Board meeting.

Article 8. Elections

- Section 8.1 See Articles 3 and 5

Article 9. Amendments

- Section 9.1 These By-Laws may be amended or replaced at any regular or special meeting. All proposals must have prior study by a Rules Committee before being presented for vote. A majority vote of one-third (1/3) of the dues-paying membership is needed for passage.
- Section 9.2 The executive board will decide how to implement any club-wide voting on the By-laws. Voting methods may include secret ballot by those attending meetings in person, online, and non-secret ballot by US mail, and emails.

Article 10. Authority

- Section 10.1 This set of By-Laws constitutes the Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Association's governing law, revoking all previous constitutions, By-Laws, or other governing rules.
- Section 10.2 Roberts Rules of Order (Revised Edition) shall be the Parliamentary Authority on all matters not covered by the By-Laws.

Article 11. Dissolution

- Section 11.1 Dissolution may be accomplished only after a petition is received with the names of three-fourths (3/4) of the members in good standing signed.
- Section 11.2 A special meeting will then be called by the President. Voting will not be anonymous. A roll call vote of all meeting attendees, both in-person and online, will be tabulated with results from US mail and emails.
- Section 11.3 All property and money belonging to the association will then be donated to one or more non-profit, non-sectarian organizations or charities.