

Michigan American Legion Press Association Department of Michigan

Constitution

Preamble

For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

Article I—Name

Section 1: The name of this organization shall be the Michigan American Legion Press Association, Department of Michigan; herein it shall also be referred to as MALPA or the association.

Article II—Objects

Section 1: The objects and purposes of this association shall be to promote the principles and policies as set forth in the foregoing preamble, and the National and Departmental Constitutions of The American Legion Families.

Section 2: Additionally, the purposes of MALPA shall be:

1. To impress upon individual American Legion Posts, Auxiliary Units, Sons of the American Legion Squadrons and Legion Rider Chapters, herein referred to as the American Legion Family, the importance of good publications.
2. To aid in the establishment of a publication committee for all of the American Legion Family in the Department of Michigan.
3. To help publication committees plan and place more stories to promote the American Legion Family activities in news media to enhance public relations.
4. To aid and encourage the use of Post, County and District publications as vehicles to promote, inform and educate members of the American Legion Family about the programs and objectives of the entities of the American Legion Family and thereby motivate them to work more actively on their behalf.

Article III—Nature

Section 1: This association is a civilian organization and membership therein does not affect or increase liability for military or police service.

Section 2: This organization shall be absolutely nonpolitical and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment.

Section 3: Rank does not exist in The American Legion; no member shall be addressed by his military or naval title in any meeting of this association.

Article IV—Membership

Section 1: Eligibility to membership in this association shall be as prescribed by the National Constitution of The American Legion and/or the National Constitution of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Section 2: Membership in MALPA shall be open to any member in-good-standing of the American Legion, Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion, or Legion Riders who further meets the qualifications and stipulations set forth in the following membership classifications:

1. **REGULAR MEMBER:** A regular member shall be an American Legion Family member in-good-standing who is presently or previously engaged in editing or contributing to the production of a local, district or department publication and/or public relations efforts in the Department of Michigan.
2. **ASSOCIATE MEMBER:** An associate membership in MALPA may be awarded by the Executive Committee to non-American Legion Family individuals in recognition of singular contributions to the Association. Associate members cannot hold office in MALPA and are not eligible to enter any MALPA media contest. They shall have voice but not vote at MALPA meetings.
3. **HONORARY MEMBER:** A member-in-good-standing of the association may be awarded an Honorary Paid-For-Life membership in MALPA by the Executive Committee in recognition of years of outstanding service to MALPA.

Article V—Officers

Section 1: The administrative affairs of this association shall, except as may be otherwise provided by the By-Laws, be under the supervision of an Executive Committee which shall consist of three (3) members-at-large in addition to the officers of the association and the immediate Past President. The term of office of members of the Executive Committee shall be for one year. This association, by its By-Laws, may provide for such other standing committees as the business of the organization may require.

Section 2: The officers of this association shall be; a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, a Treasurer and a Chaplain, and such other officers as may be deemed necessary by this organization, who shall be nominated from the floor at the meeting preceding the annual election.

Section 3: All officers and Executive Committee members shall be elected annually, and they shall hold office until their successors are duly installed or as otherwise provided. Any officer or Executive Committee member may be removed for inefficiency by the Executive Committee, a two-thirds vote of said committee being necessary to effect such removal.

Section 4: Every regular member of this association in good standing shall be eligible to hold office in this association.

Section 5: The duties of officers and the Executive Committee shall be those usually appertaining to such officers or committees and as further provided in the By-Laws.

Section 6: This association shall hold an annual election at the annual Department Convention. Newly elected MALPA officers shall be deemed installed at the close of the annual Department Convention and all new officers must have paid their MALPA dues for the year of their term of office.

Section 7: When there are two (2) or more candidates for any office, the vote shall be taken by written ballot. Otherwise a voice vote will suffice. A simple majority vote is necessary to elect.

Section 8: The President shall appoint a committee to supervise and administer any written ballots.

Article VI—Finance

Section 1: The revenue of this association shall be derived from membership or initiation fees, from annual membership dues and from such other sources as may be approved by the Association Executive Committee.

Section 2: The amount of such membership or initiation fees and the amount of such annual association dues shall be fixed and determined by this association.

Article IX—Amendments

Section 1: This Constitution is adopted subject to the provisions of the National Constitution of The American Legion and of the Department Constitution of the Department of Michigan, The American Legion. Any amendment to said National Constitution or Department Constitution which is in conflict with any provisions hereof shall be regarded as automatically repealing or modifying the provisions of this Constitution to the extent of such conflict.

Section 2: This Constitution may be amended at any regular association meeting by vote of two-thirds of the members of said association attending such regular meeting, providing the proposed amendment shall have been submitted in writing and read at the next preceding regular meeting of said association, and providing, further, written notice shall have been given to all members at least thirty (30) days in advance of the date when such amendment is to be voted upon, notifying said members that at such meeting a proposal to amend the Constitution is to be voted upon.

Michigan American Legion Press Association Department of Michigan

By-Laws

Article I

Section 1: The association existing under these By-Laws is to be known as the Michigan American Legion Press Association, The American Legion, Department of Michigan; herein also referred to as MALPA or the association.

Section 2: The objects of this association are as set forth in the Constitution.

Article II—Management

Section 1: The government and management of the association are entrusted to an Executive Committee of nine (9) members, to be known as the “Executive Committee.”

Section 2: The Executive Committee shall consist of three (3) members-at-large in addition to the officers of the association and the immediate Past President. The officers of this association shall be elected annually at the Department of Michigan convention and take office at the close of convention. All elections of officers shall be by ballot and the candidate or candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected to the respective office or offices for which they are candidates.

Section 3: The three (3) members-at-large shall be appointed by the newly elected President with the approval of the association membership at the annual meeting. One of the members-at-large shall be from the Upper Peninsula.

Section 4: All vacancies existing in the Executive Committee or in any office of the association from any cause other than the expiration of the term shall be filled by the appointment of a member by the President to serve temporarily in an elected office in the absence or disability of said elected officer with the approval of the Executive Committee. Such approval can be attained by a phone poll of the Executive Committee by the President or the Secretary in the absence of the President.

Section 5: The appointed temporary officer shall relinquish the office immediately upon the return or recovery of the duly elected officer.

Article III—Executive Committee

Section 1: The Executive Committee shall meet for organization and such other business as may come before it at the call of the President within ten (10) days after the installation of the new officers. Thereafter the Executive Committee shall meet at the call of the President as often as said President may deem necessary.

Section 2: Special meetings of the Executive Committee shall be called at the discretion of the President with a minimum of seven (7) days notice to said committee. Five (5) members present shall constitute a quorum thereof. An affirmative majority vote of the Executive Committee present shall be required for approval of all actions. Executive Committee business may be conducted via phone or email and shall have at least five (5) members participating to constitute a quorum thereof.

Section 3: The Executive Committee shall hire such employees as may be necessary; shall authorize and approve all expenditures; shall require adequate bonds from all persons having the custody of association funds; shall hear the reports of committee chairs; and generally, shall have charge of and be responsible for the management of the affairs of this association.

Article IV—Duties of Officers

Section 1: Duties of the President. It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the association and to have general supervision over the business and affairs of the association, and such officer shall be the chief executive officer of the association and the Executive Committee. The President shall approve all orders directing the disbursement of funds and shall make an annual report covering the business of the association for the year, and recommendations for the ensuing year, which shall be read at the annual meeting. The President shall perform such other duties as are usual and customary or as directed by the Association.

Section 2: Duties of the Vice-President. The Vice-President shall assume and discharge the duties of the office of President in the absence or disability of, or when called upon by the association President. The Vice-President shall also perform such other duties as are usual and customary to the office.

Section 3: Duties of the Secretary. The Secretary shall have charge of and keep a full and correct record of the proceedings of all meetings, keep such records as the Department and National Organizations may require, render reports of membership annually or when called upon at a meeting, and under direction of the President handle all correspondence of the Association. The Secretary shall perform such other duties as are usual and customary to the office.

Section 4: Duties of the Treasurer. The Treasurer of the Association shall have charge of all finances and see that they are safely deposited in some local bank or approved banking institution and shall report to the Executive Committee the condition of the finances of the Association, with such recommendations as may deem expedient or necessary for raising funds with which to carry on the activities of the Association. The Treasurer shall sign all checks disbursing the monies of the Association, and shall furnish such surety bonds in such sum as shall be fixed by the Association Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall also perform such other duties as are usual and customary to the office.

Section 5: Duties of the Chaplain. The Chaplain shall be charged with the spiritual welfare of the association members and will offer divine but nonsectarian service in the event of dedications, funerals, public functions, etc., adhere to such ceremonial rituals as are recommended by the National or Department headquarters from time to time. The Chaplain shall perform such other duties as are usual and customary to the office.

Article V—Standing Committees

Section 1: The Association President, immediately upon taking office each year, shall appoint members to serve as chairmen of the following committees and they shall assume their charge:

1. Newsletter Chairman – shall be responsible for the publication of three (3) MALPA newsletters per year.
2. Media Competition Chairman – shall be responsible for promoting the annual MALPA media contests and arranging for the judging of the entries of the various media categories and ordering the award plaques.
3. Raffle Chairman – shall be responsible for and administer all aspects of the 50/50 raffle held at each meeting.
4. The President may name any other committee chairman deemed necessary or as directed by the association.

Article VI—Meetings

Section 1: The regular meetings of the Association shall be held at the Fall Conference, Winter Meeting and at the annual Convention of the Department of Michigan, at which may be transacted such business as may properly be brought up for action; such meetings may be converted into entertainment meetings, as may be deemed advisable by the officers of the Association.

Section 2: The President or a majority of the Executive Committee shall have power to call a special meeting of the Association at any time.

Section 3: Upon the written request of five (5) MALPA members, the President shall call a special meeting of the Association.

Section 4: Five (5) members present at any MALPA meeting shall constitute a quorum.

Article VII—Notices

Section 1: Every member shall furnish the Association Secretary with an address, email and phone number for correspondence.

Section 2: The Association secretary shall cause notice of the annual election to be given at least two weeks prior thereto.

Article VIII-Dues

Section 1: The membership dues of MALPA shall be set at the annual meeting.

Section 2: The fiscal year for membership dues shall be from Department Convention to the ensuing Department Convention.

Section 3: Any member who has not paid their MALPA dues by the conclusion of Fall Conference shall be declared delinquent and all rights and privileges in the association shall be suspended.

Section 4: Any member who has not paid their MALPA dues by December 21st of the current membership year shall be dropped from the membership roll.

Article IX—Rules of Order

Section 1: All proceedings of this Association shall be conducted under and pursuant to Roberts' Rules of Order, except as herein otherwise provided.

Article X—Affiliations

Section 1: The Michigan American Legion Press Association (MALPA) shall be affiliated with the National American Legion Press Association (NALPA). All other affiliations must be approved by a majority vote of the Executive Committee and noted in these By-Laws.

Article XI –Limitations of Liabilities

Section 1: This association shall incur, or cause to be incurred no liability nor obligation whatsoever which shall subject to liability any other association, subdivision, members of The American Legion, or other individuals, corporations or organizations.

Article XII—Amendments

Section 1: These By-Laws may be amended at any regular MALPA meeting by a vote of two-thirds of the members of said association attending such regular meeting: Provided That the proposed amendment shall have been submitted in writing and read at the next preceding regular meeting of said Association: and, Provided, Further, That written notice shall have been given to all members at least thirty (30) days in advance of the date when such amendment is to be voted upon, notifying said members that at such meeting a proposal to amend these By-Laws is to be voted upon.