

# ALASKA FRONTIER TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION

## BY-LAWS

### ARTICLE 1

- Section 1.** The name of the organization shall be the Alaska Frontier Trappers Association, Inc., hereafter called the AFTA.
- Section 2.** The mailing address for the association shall be P.O. Box 3208, Palmer, Alaska 99645. The offices for the association shall be at such place as the principal officers shall appoint.
- Section 3.** The executive powers of the AFTA shall be vested in a panel of officers selected by the general membership, and shall be composed of the 5 principal officers of the association ( President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Sergeant-at-Arms/Director). A majority (3) must be present, including either the President or Vice President, either in person or via electronic means (telephone, video conference, Skype, etc.) and shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any official association business.

### ARTICLE II

The purposes of this association are as follows:

- A. The advancement of the best interests of trappers and the fur industry as a whole.
- B. To promote the practice of professional ethics and practices in the trapping of fur bearing animals.
- C. To promote the education of children, and the public in general, about trapping as a necessary wildlife management tool.
- D. To cooperate with other organizations in the promotion of the wise uses of our natural resources.
- E. To aid and cooperate with law enforcement agencies in their apprehension and prosecution of trap and fur thieves and other game law violators.
- F. To oppose regulations or legislation which would impose unreasonable restrictions on the taking of fur bearing animals or the sale of pelts or parts thereof.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **Section 1.** Eligibility

Anyone subscribing to the aims and purposes of the AFTA is eligible for membership in this organization.

### **Section 2.** Dues

- (a.) Dues shall be established by the principal officers with the approval of a majority of the membership.
- (b.) Annual dues shall cover a one (1) year period from date of payment. Upon payment of annual dues a member shall be deemed “in good standing”.
- (c.) Life Membership shall be ten (10) times the annual dues and include all entitlements of Article III sec.3 EXCEPT subtitle (d.)
- (d.) Annual affiliation shall be four (4) times the adult (w/magazine) member rate.
- (e.) Life affiliation shall be two (2) times the individual Life membership rate.
- (f.) Annual business membership shall be the same rate as the “adult member with two magazine subscriptions” rate and shall include: “Click-thru” link on AFTA website, both magazines, member decal.

### **Section 3.** Entitlements

All adult members in good standing shall be entitled to:

- a. One vote at all general membership meetings.
- b. Eligibility to vote for Officers.
- c. Eligibility to serve as an Officer.
- d. Subscription to the “Trapper and Predator Caller” and/or Trappers World magazine (Annual adult members only).
- e. Entry into monthly attendance drawings at meetings

**Section 4.** Meetings

- a. General meetings will be held the first Tuesday of the month, September through May, at the time and place designated by the principal officers.
- b. The annual meeting is held in December.
- c. Special meetings of the general membership may be called at any time by the President, Vice President or upon the written request of any three (3) members in good standing. Special meetings will be posted on the AFTA website at least 3 business days before meeting is held.
- d. Written and signed proxy votes will be honored at all membership meetings.
- e. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the members represented at any properly noticed general meeting, but in no case shall that number be less than 9 members (one of which must be the President or Vice President) in good standing.

**Section 5.** Resignation

Any member may resign from the AFTA by written notice to the President or Secretary, or by non-renewal of dues. In the case of resignation, there is no refund of dues.

**ARTICLE IV**

**Section 1.** Officers

The principal officers of the AFTA shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Sergeant-at-Arms/Director.

**Section 2.** Elections

- a. Principal officers shall be nominated each year at the November meeting, with elections at the December annual meeting. Term of office for principal officers is two (2) years and begins each January. Officers can serve consecutive terms.
- b. Nomination of a member in good standing for an office in the AFTA can be made from the floor at the November general meeting, or be

mailed/mailed to the Secretary of the AFTA to arrive prior to November first (1<sup>st</sup>) for inclusion on the ballot.

**Section 3.** Removal

- a. Any officer shall be subject to removal by a majority vote of the entire membership at any time, with or without cause.
- b. In case of absence, inability to act, disability or refusal to act of any officer or agent of the Association, the President may, without removal, delegate the powers and duties of such officer or agent to any other officer, agent or suitable person(s) selected by the principal officers for such period of time as they may prescribe.
- c. Non-support of the purposes of the AFTA as defined in Article III, shall be just cause for removal of any general member.

**Section 4.** Annual Reports

The principal officers will make an annual report to the membership at the December meeting.

**Section 5.** Vacancies

Vacancies in the principal officer positions shall be filled by appointment by the President and confirmed on a vote by the membership. A vacancy shall be deemed to exist on the occurrence of any of the following:

- a. The death or resignation of any officer.
- b. The declaration by resolution of the membership of a vacancy of an officer position due to: 1) that officer's conviction of a game and/or trapping felony/misdemeanor, or 2) declaration from a court that an officer is of unsound mind or has been found by order or judgement of any court to have breached a duty to the Association under Alaska State law.
- c. Upon action by the principal officers, in the event an officer has three (3) consecutive absences with no contact regarding the absence.
- d. An officer appointed or elected to fill a vacancy shall complete the

unexpired term of their predecessor.

**Section 6.** Compensation

- a. Officers, if requested, may receive a free magazine (1) subscription and a free (annual) membership while serving as an elected official of the Association. but otherwise, shall not receive any stated compensation for their services as such, except by resolution of the membership.
- b. The principal officers shall have the power, with the approval of the membership, to contract for and to pay officers rendering unusual or exceptional services to the Association. Special compensation shall be appropriate to the value of such services.

**Section 7.** Powers of the Association

Subject to the limitations of the AFTA by-laws and the laws of the State of Alaska, all powers of this association shall be exercised by or under the authority of, and the business and affairs of the Association shall be controlled by, the principal Officers (with consent of the Association membership). Without limiting the general powers , the Principal Officers shall have the following powers:

- a. To act on behalf of the association in an emergency situation as required, to select and remove any officer, agents and employees of the Association, prescribe such powers and duties for them as may not be inconsistent with the laws of the state of Alaska or the By-Laws of the AFTA, fix their compensation and require from them security for faithful service.
- b. To conduct, manage and control the affairs and business of the Association and to make rules and regulations, subject to membership approval, not inconsistent with the laws of the state of Alaska or the By-laws of the AFTA.
- c. To create such committee(s) as it may deem expedient to carry out the purposes of the Association.
- d. The Principal Officers shall have the accounts of the Association audited at the end of each fiscal year and shall report these findings to the membership at large at the February meeting.

## ARTICLE V

### Section 1. Duties

a. President

The president shall be the Chief Executive and Administrative Officer of the Association. The President shall be charged with the overall general management of the association, shall perform all duties incident to the office of President and such other duties as shall from time to time come before him. The President shall preside at all meetings of the members. The President shall act as Chair of the Executive Committee and shall be an ex-officio member of all other committees. The President shall execute all formal documents authorized by the AFTA and will be an authorized signer on all financial accounts of the AFTA.

b. Vice President

In the absence of the President, or in the event of the President's death, inability or refusal to act, the Vice President shall perform the duties of the President through the end of the President's term, when a new Presidential election shall take place. The Vice President shall also have such duties and powers as shall from time to time be set forth by the AFTA. In the event of the Vice President's absence, disability, death or refusal to perform, the President shall appoint a temporary Vice President to perform such of the Vice President's duties as the AFTA shall set forth.

c. Secretary

The Secretary shall attend and keep attendance of the minutes of all meetings of the association, and shall attend to the giving and serving of all notices of the association. The Secretary shall make, or cause to be made, and keep, a record containing the names (alphabetically arranged) of all persons who are members of the Association, showing their places of residence; shall in general perform all the duties incidental to the office of Secretary, and shall have such other powers and perform such duties as the AFTA may from time to time set forth. In the event of the Secretary's absence, disability, death or refusal to perform, the President shall appoint a temporary Secretary to perform such of the Secretary's duties as the AFTA shall set forth.

d. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall collect, receive, deposit and invest the funds of the Association as directed by the President; shall render monthly financial statements to the general membership, and such other reports and accounts of the financial condition of the Association as may from time to time be requested by the President; shall perform such other duties as are incident to the office of Treasurer; and shall have such powers and perform such other duties as the AFTA may from time to time set forth. In the event of the Treasurer's absence, disability, death or refusal to perform, the President shall appoint a temporary Treasurer to perform such of the Treasurer's duties as the AFTA has set forth.

e. Sergeant-at-Arms / Director

The Sergeant-at-Arms / Director shall assist the President and/or Vice President in maintaining good order and discipline during all meetings at which they may preside. The Sergeant-at-Arms / Director shall have such other powers as the AFTA may from time to time set forth. In the event of the Sergeant-at-Arms / Director's absence, disability, death or refusal to perform, the President shall appoint a temporary Sergeant-at-Arms / Director to perform said duties as the AFTA has set forth.

**Section 2. Committees**

a. Executive Committee

There shall be an Executive Committee comprised of the association principal officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Sergeant-at-Arms / Director). The Executive Committee shall have and exercise all the authority of the AFTA in the management of the Association between monthly meetings, except with respect to:

1. The amendment or repeal of By-laws or the adoption of new By-laws.
2. The amendment or repeal of any resolution of the AFTA which, by its express terms, is not amendable or capable of being repealed.
3. The approval of any action for which Alaska State law requires a majority vote of the membership.

4. The amendment or change of a resolution or motion which the members have created through a vote of the members at a general and/or special meeting, without having a new motion and vote to amend.

b. Advisory Committees

The President of the Association shall appoint voluntary members and a chairperson(s) to such committee(s) as the President shall deem advisable from time to time. Such committee(s) shall be advisable by the President and shall report to the President and the membership.

## **ARTICLE VI**

The fiscal year of the Association shall commence on January first (1<sup>st</sup>) of each year and end on December thirty-first (31<sup>st</sup>).

## **ARTICLE VII**

- A. The obligations of a member, or the prestige of an official of the association, shall not be used for the benefit or the advancement of any private enterprise for profit, nor shall any private enterprise for profit be sponsored by the association without prior approval of the membership of the AFTA.
- B. The Association shall not be used to promote interests of any political party, organization or any individual who is a candidate for public office. The foregoing shall not be construed to prevent this association from advancing in any way, the interests of Trappers or the interests of legislation previously endorsed by the membership of the AFTA.
- C. The membership list shall not be used for any purpose other than Association business without the express consent of the Principal Officers.
- D. No member, other than an elected officer, shall represent themselves as an official representative of the Association without permission from the President or the Executive Committee, or a vote of the general membership. First offense shall be a verbal warning, (recorded in the minutes). Second offense shall result in revocation of member's membership without refund of dues.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

- A. No member, officer, employee, member of a committee or person connected with the Association shall receive at any time, any of the net earnings or pecuniary profit from the operations of the Association, provided this does not prevent the payment of any



such person of such reasonable compensation for services rendered. No such persons shall be entitled to share in the distribution of any Association assets upon the dissolution of the Association.

- B.** All members of the Association shall be deemed to have expressly consented and agreed that, upon such dissolution or winding up of the affairs of the Association, whether voluntary or involuntary, the assets of the Association, after all debts have been satisfied, shall be distributed, transferred, conveyed, delivered and paid over exclusively to any trapping organizations which would then qualify under the provisions of Section 501 C (3) or 501 C (6) of the Internal Revenue Code and its regulations as they now exist or as they may hereafter be amended.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **Section 1. Sub Chapters**

- a. All sub chapters must consist of at least three members. If only three members, these three members will constitute the President, Vice President and Treasurer of the sub chapter.
- b. All dues shall be paid to the AFTA, Inc., as the parent organization.
- c. In addition to any sub chapter by-laws that may be created, sub chapters must adopt and be governed by the By-laws of the AFTA, Inc.
- d. Each member in good standing of every sub chapter, shall have one vote in any AFTA general or special election, or in any matter coming before the AFTA, Inc.
- e. Proposals, submitted in writing to the AFTA from sub chapters, shall be presented at the next available general meeting and posted on the AFTA website. This does not preclude sub chapters from making motions via electronic means (telephone, video conference, Skype, etc.) during general meetings of the AFTA.

## **ARTICLE X**

### **Section 1. Member recognition**

- a. A list of all paid-up life members shall be available at each general meeting for viewing by any member in good standing.
- b. A list of all paid-up life members shall be published on the AFTA website.

**Section 2. Trapper of the Year (TOY)**

- a. All members in good standing shall be eligible for TOY.
- b. Nominated members must have performed service in such a manner as to have promoted the health and vigor of the AFTA and the trapping lifestyle.
- c. TOY nominations shall be submitted to the AFTA no later than the March general meeting, with a subsequent vote by the membership (via mail, email or in person) at the April general meeting. The results of the vote will be announced and an award/ plaque presented to the recipient at the annual Rendezvous.

**ARTICLE XI**

- A. These By-laws, after a 30 day notice to the membership, shall be subject to alteration, amendment or repeal, and new By-laws may be added, by the affirmative vote of a quorum of the AFTA membership at any regular or special meeting.
- B. Upon a change to these By-laws, a current copy shall be posted with the changes, on the AFTA website.
- C. There shall be a current copy of the By-laws at all general and special meetings.
- D. Each new member, upon request, shall be furnished with one free copy of the most current set of By-laws. All new or amended revisions to the existing By-laws will be made available for review by the membership at the next general meeting and posted on the AFTA website.

The foregoing By-laws were adopted as the By-laws of this Association by the membership on,

Date: December 4, 2013

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Steven Schafer - President  
President

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Christopher T. "Boomer" Hesley II - Vice  
President

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Jennifer Heckler - Secretary

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Jamie Bragg - Treasurer

Earl Bragg - Sergeant-at-Arms/Director