

By-Laws of  
Midlands Pyrotechnic Association, Inc.

**ARTICLE I – NAME AND LOCATION**

Section 1 – Name. The name of the organization shall be the Midlands Pyrotechnic Association, Inc., hereafter referred to by its acronym “MPA”.

Section 2 – Principal office. The principal office and place of business of the MPA in the State of Nebraska shall be designated from time to time by the Corporation and may be within or outside of Nebraska. The Corporation may have such other offices, either within or outside Nebraska, as the Board of Directors may designate or as the business of the corporation may require from time to time.

Section 3 – Registered Office. The registered office of the Corporation shall be maintained in Nebraska and may be, but not need be, the same as the principal office. The address of the registered office may be changed from time to time by the Board of Directors.

**ARTICLE II – PURPOSE**

The purpose of MPA is to:

1. Promote the safe and sane display and use of pyrotechnics.
2. Follow safety guidelines as established by the Midlands Pyrotechnic Association and any Federal, State, and local laws.
3. Promote the professional development of MPA’s members through education and training in all aspects of safe pyrotechnic design, construction, and use, workings towards the goals of its interested members.

**ARTICLE III – BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION**

Section 1. – Directors. The corporate powers of the MPA shall be a Board of Directors which shall be made up of the President, Vice President, Safety Director, Secretary/Treasurer and Publications Director. A majority of the Board of Directors shall be necessary to and shall constitute a quorum at such regular and special meetings of the Board of Directors.

Section 2. - Term of office. The officers shall serve as directors for a term concurrent with their term as an officer. The initial President and Secretary/Treasurer shall serve the normal two (2) year term. The initial Vice President, Safety Director and Publications Director shall serve a three (3) year term, thereby leaving a minimum of two fifths (2/5) of the Board to always remain in cohesion.

Section 3 – Election. Directors/Officers shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Membership. The term for any office is two (2) years. Voting shall be conducted by secret ballot. A majority vote of members present and voting shall be required for election. If there is only one (1) candidate for any office, the Membership shall cast a unanimous ballot for that candidate and dispense with the requirement of a secret ballot vote for that office. The President and Secretary/Treasurer shall be elected in “even” number years, the Vice-President, Safety Director and Publications Director shall be elected in “odd” numbered years. Nominations for office shall be taken from the floor of the membership at the Annual meeting.

Section 4 – Vacancies. In the event of a vacancy of an office, the remaining Directors shall appoint a member in good standing to fill the vacancy until the next annual meeting of the membership, at which time a Director/Officer shall be elected to the remaining term, if any. Should a current Officer be elected to another office at the annual meeting, nominations will be taken and the membership shall elect a candidate to fill the vacated office for its remaining term.

Section 5 – Removal from office. Any member of the Board of Directors/Officer who fails to maintain their active membership in good standing with the by-laws is sufficient cause for removal. A complaint against any board member/officer for neglect of duties or unfaithful performance shall be submitted in writing to the Board of Directors and signed by the active member(s) with direct knowledge of the violation. All active members of MPA will be notified and a special meeting set, upon a two thirds (2/3) vote from the members present, the Director/Officer shall be removed.

Section 6 – Officers.

1. President – The President shall be the principal executive officer of the Corporation. The President shall supervise and manage the business and affairs of the MPA. The President shall, when present, preside at all meetings of the membership and Board of Directors, and from the membership appoint various committees, should the need arise. The President shall also perform such duties that may be prescribed by the Board of Directors, or voting membership.
2. Vice-President – The Vice-President shall perform all the duties of the President in the President's absence and perform such duties as assigned by the President, the Board of Directors, or voting membership. The Vice President shall head efforts in new member recruitment and assist the Safety Director in obtaining authorizations and needed permits for MPA events.
3. Safety Director – The Safety Director shall enforce all the adopted safety guidelines set forth by the MPA at all functions. The Safety Director shall be the person primarily responsible for obtaining authorization, and needed permits required by State laws for MPA events, with the assistance of the Vice-President.

4. Secretary/Treasurer - The Secretary/Treasurer shall keep minutes of meetings and see that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of the by-laws. The Secretary/Treasurer shall be responsible for, all funds of the Corporation, shall deposit funds in the name of the Corporation in such banks or depositories as shall be selected by the Board of Directors and, keep accurate books of account and records of all financial transactions, and file Corporate reports to Federal and State agencies as required by law.
5. Publications Director - The Publications Director shall be responsible for the "MPA" web page, posting current information, photos, upcoming events and any additional social media that will benefit the membership or public.

#### **ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

Section 1 – Annual Meetings. The annual meeting of the Members shall be held at a time, date and place established by the Board of Directors each year (January) for the purpose of electing members of the Board of Directors of the Corporation, Officers of MPA and for the transaction of any other business that needs to be brought before the Membership.

Section 2 – Quorum. A Quorum shall be all members that are present at any meeting with 7 day advance notice of said meeting.

Section 3 – Regular Meetings. Regular membership meetings may be held periodically at a time, date and place stated in or fixed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors. These meetings would typically be held during a “MPA” scheduled event.

Section 4 – Special Meetings. Special meetings of the Membership may be called at any time by the Board of Directors or by written demand of the Members stating the purpose for such meeting.

#### **ARTICLE V – MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1 - Member Eligibility. Any person may be admitted to the MPA provided that they shall have paid Membership fees, as required by the Articles of Incorporation, the By-laws or any and all rules and regulations adopted by the Board of Directors concerning qualifications of members, and has reached the age of eighteen (18) years.

Section 2 - Voting. Each paid household membership in good standing shall be entitled to 1 vote at MPA meetings where voting is required.

Section 3 – Compensation. No compensation shall be paid to the officers or board members of the Corporation, service shall be strictly voluntary. Only Board members may authorize expenditures or compensation unless overridden by a majority of the voting membership at the Annual meeting.

Section 4 - Termination of Membership. All rights and privileges of membership in the MPA shall cease as of the date of the Member's resignation, expulsion or expiration of dues. Any member who resigns, shall receive no refund of dues paid.

Section 5 - Expulsion. Any Member may be expelled from the MPA for conduct or activities detrimental to the MPA and its purposes or which are deemed to endanger public safety. Expulsion shall be determined by a two thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors after review or hearing of the facts and circumstances material to such a decision. The Member in question shall be notified of the impending action by certified mail not less than 30 days prior to the Board of Directors hearing or review of the matter. Such notice shall be prepared by the Board of Directors, and shall contain a concise and complete statement of charges against the Member, the names and addresses of the Members presenting those charges, and copies of supporting documentation, if any. Copies of this notice shall be provided to each Director. The Member in question shall have 20 days from the receipt of charges to file with the Board of Directors a written rebuttal, and to supply supporting documentation, if any. Failure to file a rebuttal within the time allotted shall be construed as a resignation from the MPA. Any such rebuttal submission shall be distributed to the members of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall hold a special meeting within 10 days of the Member in question's rebuttal submission and vote on a decision. The Member in question shall be notified within 3 days of the Board of Directors decision. A Member who has been expelled may reapply for membership in the MPA one year after the date of expulsion.

Section 6 - Non-Payment of Dues. Although rights and privileges of the MPA cease upon expiration of dues, the listing of a Member in the roles of the MPA shall not terminate until 90 days after the date of normal membership renewal.

Section 7 – MPA events. Any Member who has paid their dues, and is in good standing shall be welcome to attend any MPA event scheduled through that calendar year. The MPA tries to hold up to 6 club events each year during the spring, summer and fall.

## **ARTICLE VI – DUES**

The annual dues for membership, and membership levels in the MPA shall be set by the Board of Directors, dues may be increased or decrease at the Boards discretion. Dues will be good for a 12 month period, from February 1st through January 31st of the following calendar year. Family memberships include spouses/partners and children under 18 at same address. All membership dues are to be received by January 31<sup>st</sup>, all dues received after January 31<sup>st</sup> will be subject to a \$25.00 late fee.

## **ARTICLE VII – FISCAL YEAR**

The fiscal year for the Corporation shall run from January 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>.

## **ARTICLE VIII – NON-DISCRIMINATION**

MPA shall not discriminate against any person in any manner on the basis of sex, race, age, religion, sexual orientation, handicap, or ethnic origin.

## **ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENTS**

These bylaws may be altered or amended at the Annual business meetings by a three-fourths majority vote of those members attending and voting at said business meetings. Modifications of and amendments to these bylaws require previous notice to the membership through publication of proposed changes at least 30 days prior to the Annual business meeting.

## **ARTICLE X – DISSOLUTION**

Upon dissolution of Midlands Pyrotechnic Association, Inc., its assets shall be transferred to such other Pyrotechnic Organizations that the Board determines to be progressive in the pyrotechnic field.

