Articles of Association of the Independent American Patriots Private Membership Association

Preamble

In the spirit of our nation's Founding Fathers, who forged a path to liberty through courage and conviction, the Independent American Patriots Private Membership Association (IAP PMA) stands united to preserve the sacred principles of freedom, faith, and self-reliance. Rooted in the U.S. Constitution and guided by the wisdom of our forebears, we form this private association to foster resilient communities, free from undue government interference. These Articles of Association embody our commitment to private collaboration, member empowerment, and the enduring legacy of American independence, inviting all who share our vision to join us in building a future where liberty thrives.

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ARTICLE I: NAME & STATUS

The Independent American Patriots Private Membership Association, hereinafter referred to as "the Association," is formed under the principles of federal and common law, operating as a private, member-driven entity without creating a separate legal entity for litigation purposes. This structure ensures our autonomy, protected by the constitutional rights of freedom of association and privacy, as affirmed by landmark cases such as NAACP v. Alabama (357 U.S. 449, 1958) and Thomas v. Collins (323 U.S. 516, 1945). The principal address of the Association shall be 30 N Gould St Ste #53206, Sheridan, WY 82801, or such other address as the National Stewardship may designate. Our current central office directs flat mail, phone calls, messages, and

accepts legal service on our behalf, reflecting the dispersed nature of our leadership and members, with mail forwarded as needed to ensure operational continuity.

Full members in good standing, as defined by the National Stewardship, may establish affiliates known as "Private Town Halls." These operate as independent ad hoc committees under National Stewardship guidelines, empowering local action while maintaining separation from the Association's central authority. This decentralized approach fosters grassroots engagement, aligning with our mission of community resilience.

ARTICLE II: DECLARATION OF PURPOSE

The Association is dedicated to upholding and advancing the civil rights, constitutional guarantees, and political freedoms of every member and citizen of the United States. Grounded in the U.S. Constitution, Common Law, and Natural Law, we operate exclusively in the private domain, protected by the First and Fourteenth Amendments, as affirmed by NAACP v. Button (371 U.S. 415, 1963) and Pierce v. Society of Sisters (268 U.S. 510, 1925). Our mission is to foster self-sufficiency, preparedness, and community cottage industry development, guided by the timeless principles of the Founding Fathers, ensuring communities thrive independently of government reliance.

We recognize the sacred right of all members to follow the guidance of the Divine Creator, treating all seekers of faith with dignity. No government authority may regulate faith or religion under Natural Law, a principle we hold inviolable, provided that such practices do not cause harm to others or infringe upon their rights. Members have the right to select leaders who provide wise counsel on preserving life, liberty, family, and the pursuit of happiness, delivering education, goods, and services to advance these goals.

The Association reserves the right to provide information, goods, and services, including alternative or traditional remedies, to safeguard members' inalienable rights as declared by the Founding Fathers. Through civic engagement and community resilience, we equip members with the tools, education, and resources to restore and preserve American liberty.

In financial matters, we honor gold and silver coin as constitutional currency, per Article I of the U.S. Constitution, valuing U.S. Mint Eagles at market rates, while accepting fiat currency for practical transactions. Members may engage in private transactions, assigning real value to goods, services, or labor, with the Association held harmless from such agreements. We welcome all individuals, regardless of race, gender, creed, or religion, who pledge to uphold these Articles, Charter of Rights, Bylaws, Ordinances, & Expectances, and the Membership Agreement.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Membership is open to individuals who profess faith in the Divine Creator and commit to the Association's Calling, Tenets of Liberty, and Doctrine of Governance. Members pledge to uphold these Articles, ensuring alignment with our shared vision of liberty and self-reliance.

Membership types include:

- Lifetime Membership: A one-time payment of $500 or equivalent in .999 Silver Eagles or pure coinage, granting full voting rights and access to all Association benefits.

- Yearly Membership: An annual payment of $50 or equivalent in .999 Silver Eagles or pure coinage, offering full voting rights and benefits. New members receive a $20 discount on first year's subscription.

- Limited Privilege (Non-Voting) Membership: An annual payment of $12 per calendar year, providing access to select benefits without voting rights.

- Honorary Lifetime Memberships: Granted to four founding members & stewards, they are President Lonny Ray Williams, National Secretary Leslie Brooke Williams, Alex Johnson, & Ashley Johnson, in recognition of their significant financial contributions to sustaining the Association through the transition from political party to private members association. Members who pay $50 per year will be granted lifetime membership status once their cumulative payments reach $500.

Membership does not confer ownership interest or liability for the Association's debts, obligations, or judgments. The National Stewardship may sanction or remove members by unanimous vote after a fair hearing for actions that discredit or harm the Association. New members may be sponsored by existing members, vetted by the National Membership Leader, and approved by the National Stewardship to ensure alignment with our values.

ARTICLE IV: PRINCIPLES AND STANDARDS

At the heart of our Association lie the Three Patriot Pillars: the Calling of Independence, the Tenets of Liberty (Matrix of Liberty), and the Doctrine of Governance. These pillars are the soul of our mission, uniting us in a shared commitment to liberty, self-sufficiency, and principled governance. They are not mere ideals but a call to action, inspiring us to build communities that honor the sacrifices of our forebears and secure freedom for future generations.

Calling of Independence

In the hallowed tradition of our nation's Founding Fathers, who gathered in secret to defy tyranny and forge a free nation, we, the Independent American Patriots, unite under the timeless principles of Natural Law and the Right of Assembly. Our calling is a sacred duty: to safeguard the liberty and lives of our members, to defend the sanctity of traditional families, and to uphold the inalienable rights bestowed upon us by our Divine Creator—"life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness". Like the patriots who penned the Declaration of Independence in 1776, we draw strength from our faith and the collective wisdom of liberty-minded Americans who have stood resolute through centuries of challenge. In these turbulent times, we commit to fostering self-sufficiency, strengthening community resilience, and preserving the sovereignty of individuals, states, and our nation. Our resolve echoes the courage of those who risked all for freedom, ensuring that their legacy endures in our actions and aspirations.

Tenets of Liberty (Matrix of Liberty)

Our Tenets of Liberty are inspired by the National Monument to the Forefathers, an 81-foot granite monument in Plymouth, Massachusetts, dedicated in 1889 to honor the Mayflower Pilgrims. This towering tribute, crafted by Boston sculptor Hammatt Billings, features allegorical figures of Faith, Morality, Law, Education, and Liberty—virtues that shaped our nation and guide us today. These tenets are our roadmap to a free and just society, each pillar supporting the edifice of liberty:

- Faith: Faith in our Divine Creator is the cornerstone of a free society. Through diligent study of Holy Scriptures and inspired wisdom, we find the moral compass to navigate life's challenges. Faith, bolstered by Virtue, Law, Knowledge, and Liberty, anchors our community, preventing the drift into selfishness that erodes freedom. It is the light that guides us, as it did the Pilgrims who braved an ocean for religious liberty.

- Virtue: A shared commitment to Virtue and Morality fosters harmony among free people. The erosion of Honor, Respect, and Manners threatens liberty, as individuals may trade their freedoms for fleeting comforts. Virtue thrives through the selfless service of those who embody divine teachings, ensuring our actions reflect the highest ethical standards, as exemplified by the Pilgrims' communal spirit.

- Law: Adherence to Natural Law and respect for Inalienable Rights ensure that human dignity is upheld. In a lawless society, chaos prevails, and the vulnerable suffer. Justice, tempered with mercy, balances accountability with compassion, reflecting the Pilgrims' commitment to fair governance under the Mayflower Compact.

- Knowledge: Education and wisdom empower free people to thrive. Ignorance leaves us vulnerable to oppression, but literacy and the pursuit of both ancient and contemporary knowledge liberate us. The humble wisdom of elders, sharing lessons from their experiences, shapes future generations, as the Pilgrims valued learning to sustain their colony.

- Liberty: Liberty is the lifeblood of a free society, enabling individuals to pursue their divine callings. Censorship, mandates, and coercion are tools of tyranny that we must resist. Like the Pilgrims who sought freedom from persecution, we stand vigilant, defending our rights and seeking peace when liberty prevails.

Doctrine of Governance

Our Doctrine of Governance is adapted from the profound insights of H. Verlan Andersen, a revered scholar and leader who championed liberty and constitutional fidelity. A general authority of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and a professor at Brigham Young University, Andersen's writings, endorsed and professed by Ezra Taft Benson, articulate the principles of proper government. These 15 tenets guide our expectations of governance, ensuring it serves the people and protects their God-given rights:

- Faith in our Divine Creator: We affirm that our inalienable rights—life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness—are endowed by our Creator, as declared in the Declaration of Independence. Faith is the foundation of just governance, guiding both citizens and leaders.

- Government's Sole Function: Government exists only to protect our natural rights, enabling us to live freely without undue interference. Any expansion beyond this role risks tyranny.

- Inspired Constitution: The U.S. Constitution is a sacred covenant, inspired by Almighty God, binding government to serve the people and requiring citizens to uphold their civic duties.

- Limited Government: A balanced, limited government prevents invasion, subversion, and tyranny, preserving the sovereignty of individuals and states.

- Equal Justice: Government, it’s representatives, and individuals must be held to the same standards of justice, rejecting any form of aristocratic privilege.

- Uninfringed Bill of Rights: The Bill of Rights is sacrosanct, protecting inalienable rights without limitation or compromise.

- Republic's Purpose: Our American Republic is designed to foster liberty, prosperity, and upward mobility, rejecting socialism, progressivism, and other regressive ideologies that erode freedom.

- Rejection of Tyranny: Socialism, plutocracies, communism, and technocracies are unconstitutional and antithetical to a Representative Republic, threatening rights like free speech and religion.

- Fair Taxation: Taxes must be limited, uniform, and impartial, avoiding legislation that unjustly burdens the people.

- Sound Money: The Constitution mandates a currency convertible to gold and silver, ensuring economic stability and real value.

- State Sovereignty: States are sovereign entities, free from federal overreach, preserving their independence.

- Financial Independence: States must avoid financial servitude to the federal government to maintain their autonomy.

- No Foreign Aid: Foreign aid is unconstitutional, diverting resources from the American people.

- Constitutional Treaties: No authority exists to subject citizens to foreign treaties that override the Constitution.

- Strong National Defense: Our defense must remain independent, with treaties requiring constitutional processes to avoid foreign entanglements.

Proclamation: On July 4, 2023, we reorganized from the Independent American Party, adopting the White Buffalo as our symbol of endurance and rarity. This emblem reflects our resolve to stand firm in the face of challenges, united in private collaboration to advance liberty and strengthen our communities, honoring the sacrifices of those who came before us.

ARTICLE V: NATIONAL LEADERSHIP

The Association's leadership comprises the National Stewardship and the National Council, working together to guide our mission with integrity and minimal bureaucracy.

The National Stewardship, our governing body, includes the President (Chairman of the Executive Council), Vice President (Chair of the National Council), and National Secretary (Administrative Council). Founding stewards serve indefinite terms, while future stewards are appointed for seven-year terms by nomination and Stewardship vote at an official meeting. Their duties include:

- Conducting bi-monthly meetings to steer the Association's direction.

- Presiding over the annual Members Convention.

- Hosting four firesides annually to engage and inspire members.

- Driving recruitment and safeguarding the Association's mission.

Stewards act with honesty, integrity, and a commitment to member welfare. In the event of temporary unavailability of all stewards (e.g., illness, emergency), the National Council appoints an interim leader for up to 90 days, pending Stewardship restoration or a Members Convention vote. If all stewards resign, the National Council nominates successors, ratified by a two-thirds membership vote.

The National Council, an advisory and administrative body, includes roles such as National Membership Leader, Sergeant at Arms, Treasurer, Public Information Officer, National Recruitment Officer, National Historian, National Service Coordinator, National Social Media Officer, National Fundraising Officer, and regional Membership Leaders. Elected members serve five-year terms, while appointed members serve three or seven years, depending on the role. The Council develops the Charter of Rights, Bylaws, Ordinances, & Expectances, supports Stewardship directives, and engages members regionally, with reimbursement for approved expenses and access to training resources.

Auxiliary Councils—Executive, Members', Administrative, Finance, F.I.R.M. (Fireside, Instruction, Resiliency, & Motivation Delegation), and Pillars—provide specialized support, ensuring efficient operations. The Association prioritizes the Three Patriot Pillars, empowering members toward self-sufficiency and minimizing bureaucracy. Amendments to governing documents require member approval, ensuring democratic governance.

Meetings occur on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 7 PM Pacific, operating by unanimous consent unless parliamentary procedures, per the Standard Code by Alice Sturgis, are invoked.

ARTICLE VI: PRIVATE TOWN HALLS

Full members in good standing may form or join Private Town Halls, local affiliates that promote civic engagement, self-sufficiency, and cottage industry development. Operating under National Stewardship guidelines, these Town Halls function as independent ad hoc committees, fostering grassroots initiatives aligned with our mission. The Association is not liable for their actions, ensuring autonomy while maintaining cohesion through activity reports to the National Council.

ARTICLE VII: MEMBERS’ CONVENTION

The Independent American Patriots Private Membership Association (IAP PMA) hosts its annual Members’ Convention on the Saturday following July 4, a date that honors our nation's independence and our unwavering commitment to liberty. This Convention may be conducted in-person, remotely, or virtually, adapting to the needs of our members. To ensure ample preparation, notice of the Convention shall be provided to all members at least 60 days prior to the event. Members wishing to contribute to the agenda must submit their items by midnight in their local time zone on the date that is 120 days before the Convention. Representing our diverse membership, forty Member Delegates are elected for three-year terms from eight geographical districts, with five delegates per district. These delegates play a crucial role in voicing member interests. The election process is democratic, with campaigns opening at 12:01 AM on September 1 and closing at midnight on October 1 each year, based on the member's local time zone. All dates and deadlines specified in this Article, including but not limited to notice periods, agenda submission deadlines, and campaign periods, shall be interpreted based on the member's local time zone, with submission deadlines expiring at midnight in the member's local time zone.

ARTICLE VIII: AMENDMENTS

These Articles may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the membership at the Members' Convention, with 60 days' prior notice. Amendments must align with the Association's mission and principles, reflecting the collective will of our members and upholding our commitment to liberty and self-governance.

ARTICLE IX: DISSOLUTION

Upon dissolution, the Association's assets, after settling all debts, shall be distributed to a non-profit organization with a similar mission, as determined by the National Stewardship. This ensures our resources continue to advance liberty and community resilience.

ARTICLE X: FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The Treasurer maintains accurate financial records, provides quarterly reports to members, and arranges annual audits by an independent accountant, ensuring transparency and trust. The Association is an unincorporated association under IRS guidelines, filing Form 1065 (Partnership Return) if gross receipts exceed $5,000 annually. The National Stewardship designates a Tax Officer to oversee compliance, protecting officers from personal liability. All transactions reflect our commitment to integrity and sound stewardship.

ARTICLE XI: CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Leadership must disclose conflicts of interest and recuse themselves from related decisions, ensuring actions serve the Association's best interests. Violations are subject to sanctions by the National Stewardship, maintaining accountability and trust.

ARTICLE XII: BANKING AND ASSETS

The National Stewardship is authorized to open and manage bank accounts, designating at least two signatories to ensure collaborative control. The Association's virtual office address in Wyoming supports banking and operational needs, reflecting our dispersed leadership structure.

ARTICLE XIII: LIABILITY PROTECTION

Members and leadership are not personally liable for the Association's actions, except in cases of gross negligence or intentional misconduct, as determined by the National Stewardship. This protection encourages active participation without undue risk.

ARTICLE XIV: INTERPRETATION

In cases of ambiguity or dispute, the National Stewardship resolves matters guided by the principles of liberty, self-governance, and the Association's mission. Interpretations must uphold our commitment to privacy, member empowerment, and constitutional values.

ADOPTION

We, the undersigned, adopt these Articles of Association on behalf of the Independent American Patriots Private Membership Association, pledging to uphold its mission and principles.

- Lonny Ray Williams, President

- Leo Lindquist, Vice President

- Leslie Brooke Williams, National Secretary