Charter of Rights, Bylaws, Ordinances, & Expectances for Independent American Patriots PMA

Preamble

This Charter of Rights, Bylaws, Ordinances, & Expectances (hereinafter "the Charter") serves as the foundational governing document for the Independent American Patriots Private Membership Association (IAP PMA), a private membership association dedicated to preserving the principles of liberty, self-sufficiency, and community resilience. Rooted in the wisdom of the Founding Fathers and guided by the Three Patriot Pillars—Calling of Independence, Tenets of Liberty, and Doctrine of Governance—this Charter establishes the rights, responsibilities, and expectations of all members and leaders. It ensures that the association operates with integrity, transparency, and an unwavering commitment to its private, non-statutory compliant status.

Section 1: Mission and Values

The Independent American Patriots Private Membership Association (IAP PMA) exists to unite individuals who share a deep commitment to self-sufficiency, preparedness, community cottage industry development, and the timeless principles espoused by the Founding Fathers. Our mission is to empower members to live these values through education, collaboration, and mutual support, fostering a community that thrives on limited government, individual liberty, and collective resilience.

Our core values are embodied in the Three Patriot Pillars:

- **Calling of Independence**: We gather under Natural Law and the Right of Assembly to safeguard the liberty and lives of our members, championing strong traditional families, inalienable rights, and the sovereignty of individuals and communities.
- **Tenets of Liberty**: Inspired by the National Monument to the Forefathers, these tenets—Faith, Virtue, Law, Knowledge, and Liberty—serve as our guideposts toward sovereignty and independence.
- **Doctrine of Governance**: Adapted from H. Verlan Andersen's 15 tenets, this doctrine shapes our expectations of government and reinforces our dedication to preserving the constitutional covenant of the United States.

These principles are the bedrock of our association, inspiring us to build a future where freedom and community flourish. They remind us of our duty to honor the past while preparing for the challenges of tomorrow.

Section 2: Operational Rules

The IAP PMA operates with a focus on simplicity, integrity, and active member participation. The following rules provide a clear structure for our day-to-day functions, ensuring that our commitment to minimal bureaucracy and maximal liberty remains intact.

A. Code of Conduct

All members shall uphold a standard of conduct that reflects the association's mission and values. This includes acting with integrity, respecting fellow members, and following the promptings of the Divine Creator. Members must refrain from behaviors that undermine the association's principles or tarnish its reputation, fostering a community built on trust and mutual respect.

B. Decision-Making

The National Stewardship, as the association's governing body, makes decisions by unanimous consent whenever possible, ensuring that all voices are heard and respected. In situations requiring broader input or resolution, parliamentary procedures based on the *Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure* by Alice Sturgis may be employed. Major decisions, such as amendments to this Charter or the Articles of Association, require a

two-thirds vote of the membership at the annual Members' Convention, guaranteeing that significant changes reflect the will of the majority.

C. Private Town Halls

Members are encouraged to establish Private Town Halls to promote civic engagement, self-sufficiency, and cottage industry development within their local communities. These Town Halls operate under guidelines established by the National Stewardship and must submit periodic reports to the National Council to ensure consistency with the association's mission. A detailed Town Hall Handbook, approved by the National Stewardship, provides step-by-step instructions for their formation, operation, and reporting requirements, empowering members to take an active role in advancing our shared goals.

Section 3: Rights and Responsibilities

Membership in the IAP PMA carries both privileges and obligations, designed to create a balanced and thriving community where every member contributes to and benefits from our collective efforts.

A. Rights

- **Voting**: Full members in good standing (not including limited, temporary, or partial membership) have the right to vote on key decisions during the Members Convention, ensuring their voice shapes the association's future.
- **Access to Resources**: Members may utilize educational materials, community projects, and other resources provided by the association to support their personal and communal growth.
- **Participation**: Members are entitled to join or initiate Private Town Halls, propose agenda items for the Members Convention, and engage in association activities, fostering active involvement.
- **Fair Treatment**: Every member has the right to fair and impartial treatment in all association matters, including disputes or disciplinary actions.
- **Running for Office**: Eligible members may run for elected positions, such as Member Delegates or National Council roles, as outlined in the election procedures.

B. Responsibilities

- **Dues**: Members shall pay dues as outlined in the Membership Agreement, providing the financial foundation for the association's operations and initiatives.
- **Uphold Principles**: Members must adhere to the Articles of Association and this Charter, living in alignment with the Three Patriot Pillars in both word and deed.
- **Community Contribution**: Members are expected to contribute to community projects, educational efforts, or other activities that advance the association's mission, strengthening our collective impact.
- **Confidentiality**: Members shall protect the confidentiality of association records, member information, and Private Town Hall plans, as stipulated in the Membership Agreement, to safeguard our private status.

C. Election Procedures

The IAP PMA is committed to democratic governance, ensuring that elections for leadership positions and Member Delegates are conducted transparently, fairly, and in alignment with the principles outlined in the Articles of Association. The following procedures govern the election of Member Delegates and elected

National Council members, as well as the appointment of other leadership roles, fostering member participation and accountability.

1. Election of Member Delegates

- **Eligibility:** Any full member in good standing, as defined in Article III of the Articles of Association, who resides in one of the eight geographical districts, may run for a Member Delegate position.
- **Nominations:** Members may nominate themselves or another eligible member by submitting a nomination form to the National Secretary by midnight in their local time zone on August 1 annually, 30 days prior to the campaign period start. The form shall include the candidate's name, district, and a brief statement of intent (not exceeding 200 words).
- **Campaign Period:** As specified in Article VII, campaigns for Member Delegates open at 12:01 AM on September 1 and close at midnight on October 1 annually, based on the member's local time zone. Candidates may campaign through association-approved channels, such as Private Town Halls or member newsletters, adhering to the code of conduct.
- **Voting:** Elections occur at the annual Members' Convention, held on the Saturday following July 4. Each full member in good standing from the respective district may cast one vote for each of the five delegate positions in their district. Voting may be conducted in person, virtually, or via secure remote ballot, as determined by the National Stewardship.
- **Vote Counting and Results:** An Election Committee, appointed by the National Stewardship and consisting of at least three impartial members, shall oversee vote counting. Results shall be announced at the Convention, with elected delegates serving three-year terms starting immediately.
- **Ties and Disputes:** In case of a tie, a runoff election shall be held within 30 days, following the same procedures. Disputes over election integrity shall be resolved through mediation, per Section 8, with arbitration as a final step if needed.

2. Election of National Council Members

- **Positions:** Elected National Council positions, as outlined in Article V, include roles such as National Membership Leader, Sergeant at Arms, and others designated as elected by the National Stewardship.
- **Eligibility:** Any full member in good standing may run for an elected National Council position, provided they meet any additional criteria set by the National Stewardship (e.g., prior service in a Private Town Hall).
- **Nominations:** Nominations shall be submitted to the National Secretary by midnight in the member's local time zone on a date set by the National Stewardship, at least 60 days prior to the election. Nominations require a second from another full member and a candidate statement (not exceeding 300 words).
- **Election Timing:** Elections for National Council members occur every five years or as needed to fill vacancies, typically at the Members' Convention or a special meeting called by the National Stewardship.
- **Voting:** Each full member in good standing may cast one vote per elected position. Voting may be conducted in person, virtually, or via secure remote ballot, ensuring broad participation.
- **Vote Counting and Results:** The Election Committee shall count votes, with results announced at the election meeting. Elected members serve five-year terms, as per Article V.

- **Ties and Disputes:** Ties shall be resolved by a runoff election within 30 days. Disputes shall follow the conflict resolution process in Section 8.

3. Appointment of National Stewardship and Appointed Positions

- **National Stewardship:** As per Article V, founding stewards (Lonny Ray Williams, Leo Lindquist, Leslie Brooke Williams) serve indefinite terms. Thereafter, stewards are appointed for seven-year terms by nomination and a vote of the existing National Stewardship at an official meeting. Appointments shall be announced to members within 30 days, ensuring transparency.
- **Appointed National Council Positions:** Roles designated as appointed (e.g., National Historian, per Article V) are selected by the National Stewardship based on qualifications and commitment to the Three Patriot Pillars. Appointments are announced to members and serve three- or seven-year terms, as specified.
- **Vacancies:** If a vacancy occurs in an appointed position, the National Stewardship shall appoint a replacement within 60 days, following the same process.

4. Special Elections

- **Vacancies in Elected Positions:** If a Member Delegate or elected National Council position becomes vacant, the National Stewardship may call a special election within 90 days, following the same nomination, campaign, and voting procedures as regular elections.
- **Interim Appointments:** Pending a special election, the National Stewardship may appoint an interim replacement to serve until the election, ensuring continuity.

5. Election Committee

- The National Stewardship shall appoint an Election Committee of at least three impartial members at least 90 days before any election. The committee oversees nomination validation, ballot preparation, vote counting, and result announcement, ensuring fairness and transparency.
- Members with conflicts of interest (e.g., candidates or their immediate family) shall not serve on the committee.

6. General Provisions

- **Eligibility Verification:** The National Secretary shall verify candidate eligibility based on membership status and district residency, notifying candidates within 7 days of nomination submission.
- **Campaign Conduct:** Candidates shall adhere to the code of conduct, avoiding actions that discredit the association. Violations may result in disqualification, as determined by the National Stewardship.
- **Voting Methods:** The National Stewardship may approve in-person, virtual, or remote voting methods, ensuring accessibility for all members. Remote ballots shall use secure systems to protect integrity.
- **Transparency:** Election results and procedures shall be documented and shared with members, archived as PDFs per Section 4.D, to maintain trust and accountability.

Section 4: Bylaws

The bylaws set forth specific, legally binding rules to govern member conduct and association operations, ensuring clarity and accountability for all.

A. Membership Conduct

- Members shall not disclose confidential association information to outsiders or engage in actions that discredit the PMA, preserving our integrity and privacy.
- Violations of the code of conduct may result in disciplinary measures, including warnings, suspension, or termination of membership, as determined by the National Stewardship after a fair review process.

B. Meeting Attendance

- Full members are encouraged to attend the annual Members' Convention, held either in person or virtually, to participate in governance and decision-making processes.
- Members unable to attend may submit proposals or cast votes through designated channels outlined in the Town Hall Handbook, ensuring broad participation.

Section 5: Ordinances

Ordinances establish clear procedures for organizing events and managing financial contributions, aligning all activities with the association's mission and maintaining transparency.

A. Event Participation

- Members organizing Private Town Hall events must ensure that all activities reflect the Three Patriot Pillars and seek approval from the National Stewardship for any initiatives bearing the association's name or logo.
- Events shall be conducted in a manner that upholds our values and respects the privacy of participants, reinforcing our commitment to community and independence.

B. Financial Contributions

- Additional assessments for specific services, such as workshops or educational programs, may be levied with the approval of the National Stewardship to fund targeted initiatives.
- Members shall receive at least 30 days' notice of any assessments, accompanied by a clear explanation of the purpose and intended use of the funds, fostering trust and accountability.

Section 6: Expectances

The IAP PMA holds its members and leaders to a high standard of ethical and behavioral conduct, recognizing that our community's strength lies in the character of its people.

- **Honesty**: Members shall act with truthfulness in all interactions, building a foundation of trust within the association and beyond.
- **Integrity**: Members shall remain steadfast in upholding the association's principles, even in the face of adversity or personal cost.
- **Selfless Service**: Leaders and members alike are called to serve the community with humility, prioritizing the association's mission over individual gain.
- **Stewardship**: Members are entrusted with preserving the association's history, principles, and resources, ensuring they endure for future generations.

Section 7: Financial Policies

The association is committed to managing its finances with transparency and responsibility, ensuring that all funds support our mission and benefit our members.

A. Budget Approval

- The Finance Council shall propose an annual budget for review and approval by the National Stewardship, outlining projected income and expenditures.
- Members shall have the opportunity to review the budget at the Members' Convention, offering feedback and suggestions to shape financial priorities.

B. Transparency

- Quarterly financial reports shall be distributed to members, detailing income, expenses, and fund allocations to maintain openness and accountability.
- An independent accountant shall conduct annual audits, with findings shared with the membership to verify the integrity of our financial practices.

C. Finance Committee

- A Finance Committee, appointed by the National Stewardship, shall oversee daily financial operations using standardized accounting software, such as QuickBooks, for accuracy and efficiency.
- Procedures for deposits, withdrawals, and expense approvals shall be documented and shared with members annually, reinforcing trust in our financial stewardship.

D. Precious Metals Management

The National Stewardship shall appoint a custodian, who may be an individual or a committee from within the association, to manage the association's precious metals holdings. The custodian shall establish and maintain procedures for:

- **Acceptance of Precious Metals**:
    - Accepting payments in gold and silver coins or other forms of precious metals for membership dues, contributions, or other association fees, valued at current market rates at the time of transaction.
    - Verifying the authenticity and purity of precious metals received through reputable methods or third-party certification.
    - Recording and documenting all transactions involving precious metals, including the date, amount, type, market value at transaction time, and member details.
- **Storage of Precious Metals**:
    - Securely storing precious metals in facilities that provide adequate protection against theft, loss, or damage, such as bank vaults or secure safe deposit boxes.
    - Limiting access to stored precious metals to authorized personnel only, with strict controls and audit trails.
    - Obtaining appropriate insurance coverage to protect the association and its members against potential losses.

- **Redemption of Precious Metals**:
    - Allowing members who have contributed precious metals to redeem them upon request, subject to any terms and conditions established by the National Stewardship, such as minimum holding periods or notice requirements.
    - Processing redemption requests promptly and fairly, with the value determined based on current market rates at the time of redemption.
    - Maintaining accurate records of all redemption transactions to ensure transparency and accountability.

The custodian shall provide quarterly reports to the National Stewardship detailing the inventory of precious metals, transaction summaries, and any changes in storage or security measures. These reports shall be made available to members upon request, in line with the association's commitment to transparency.

All procedures and practices related to precious metals shall be designed to preserve the association's private status and comply with applicable laws and regulations, ensuring that all transactions are conducted within the private domain and do not engage in public commerce that could trigger regulatory oversight.

The National Stewardship shall review these procedures annually to ensure they remain effective, secure, and aligned with the association's mission and legal requirements.

Section 8: Conflict Resolution

Disputes within the association shall be addressed privately and constructively, preserving our unity and protecting our private status.

- **Mediation**: Initial conflicts shall be resolved through mediation, facilitated by a neutral member of the National Council, to seek a mutually agreeable solution.
- **Arbitration**: If mediation is unsuccessful, binding arbitration shall be conducted under the rules of the American Arbitration Association, ensuring disputes remain within the private domain and are resolved fairly.

Section 9: Amendments

This Charter may be amended to adapt to the association's evolving needs, provided that all changes remain consistent with the Articles of Association and our foundational mission.

- **Process**: Amendments require a two-thirds vote of the membership at a Members' Convention, reflecting broad consensus among members.
- **Notice**: Proposed amendments must be submitted to members at least 60 days prior to the convention, allowing ample time for review and discussion.

Section 10: Commitment to Private Status

The IAP PMA is resolute in its dedication to operating within the private domain, as protected by the U.S. Constitution and reinforced by legal precedents such as *Thomas v. Collins, 323 U.S. 516 (1945)*. This commitment ensures that we remain free from undue government interference, allowing our members to pursue our mission with autonomy and purpose.

- **Non-Statutory Compliance**: The association shall maintain its non-statutory compliant status, adhering to the principles of private association and the protections of the First and Fourteenth Amendments.
- **Minimal Bureaucracy**: All operations shall be conducted with the fewest possible administrative burdens, keeping our focus on our mission and our members rather than unnecessary red tape.

Conclusion

This Charter of Rights, Bylaws, Ordinances, & Expectances is a living testament to the shared vision and dedication of the Independent American Patriots Private Membership Association. It is a promise to uphold the principles of liberty, self-sufficiency, and community that define us, and a guide to ensure that our actions reflect our values. By embracing this Charter, we honor the sacrifices of those who fought for freedom and commit ourselves to building a stronger, more resilient future together.

Adopted by the National Stewardship on 6/26/2025

Ratified by the Membership at the Members Convention on 7/10/2025