

Burning of the Valleys Military Association “the Valley’s History Alliance”

Charter and By-Laws (proposed for adoption 1/14/2017)

Article I. Name

Burning of the Valleys Military Association “The Valley’s History Alliance”

Article II. Mission Statement and Goals

It is the mission of the BVMA- Valley’s History Alliance to promote living history and support regional Historic sites and Historical Societies in the Schoharie, Mohawk, and Upper Hudson Valleys, focusing on the Colonial and Federalist periods (1740-1820)

Special efforts will be made to work closely with local historical venues in developing and executing programs that:

- * Use original sites when available;
- * Recreate regional events as accurately as possible, taking special care to include the recreated units of those who participated in the actual event when possible
- * To commemorate these events in honor of those who originally served;
- * Promote pride in the heritage of the region;
- * Increase public awareness of local history; and
- * Promote tourism throughout the Schoharie and Mohawk and Upper Hudson valleys.

Association Goals

In the furtherance of our Mission, the Burning of the Valleys Military Association ...”Valley’s History Alliance will work toward achieving the following goals:

...To form an organization of Historic sites, reenactment groups, artisan and craftsmen, and civilian interpreters to support member units, historic sites and their events ,and provide a central information base, not only for events, but for research, material, equipment, etc.;

...to negotiate for the commemoration of at least one historic Revwar era event annually in the Schoharie, Mohawk, or Upper Hudson Valleys. Every effort will be made to recreate the action a historically accurate as possible, and to make every possible effort to use the original site.;

...To select two or three events at member sites that all member units will make efforts to attend in force;

...To adhere to the BVMA safety guidelines in the execution of all events; and

...To encourage cooperation and minimize conflict with events and other organizations

Article III. Membership

Section 1 Unit Membership, Guild Membership, Historic Site/Historical Society Membership

Section 2A Unit Membership

Definition of Unit, for the purposes of the BVMA/VHA, a unit will be defined as: Any Regiment., Battalion, Company, Corp, Unit etc. ,from the Revolutionary War era, the French & Indian War era, or the War of 1812, that affiliates with the Association under that specified name, that falls under a single command structure. and provides a certificate of Insurance ALL UNITS MUST BE INSURED.

Any established recreated Unit may apply for membership in the BVMA/VHA, or may be issued an invitation by the Association Board of Directors.

All potential units invited or applying to join the Association must be nominated before the Board of Directors, and a 2/3 vote is necessary before issuing the invitation.

Each BVMA member unit shall appoint a delegate to the BVMA/VHA Board of Directors.

BVMA/VHA member units collectively will elect from their membership a Trustee to serve on the BVMA/VHA Executive Committee

Section 2B "The Guild of Artisans, Artificers and Merchants" (The Guild)

The BVMA /VHA recognizes "The Guild of Artisans, Artificers and Merchants" (The Guild) as the non-combatant division of the BVMA/VHA . The guild will provide the opportunity for individual Non-Combatant membership in the organization for those not otherwise members of a BVMA/VHA member unit, , and the insurance required for participation in BVMA/VHA events.

The Guild will operate under the constitution and by-laws of the BVMA, but with it's own internal governance .

The Chairperson of the Guild will serve on the BVMA/VHA Executive Committee as a Trustee

Section 2C Historic Site/Historical Society Membership

Any historical site or historical society/ association operating in the Mohawk, Schoharie Valley and Upper Hudson regions are eligible to fully participate in the BVMA/VHA

Historic Site/Historical Society members are entitled to attend and designate a delegate to participate in all meetings of the BVMA/VHA . They are entitled to discuss and vote on all issues presented for consideration. They are entitled to full access and free use of the BVMA website, newsletter and correspondences to promote their activities.

Historic Site/Historical Society members shall elect from their membership a Trustee to serve on the BVMA/VHA Executive Board.

Section 2D Active Membership / Unit Disposal

For a Unit or historic site/historical society member to be considered “active” in the BVMA/ VHA, said unit must participate in at least one of the following events per year: The Delegates Meeting, The General Membership Meeting, or a BVMA Supported Event, and pay their annual dues no later than one month from the annual membership meeting. Failure to do so will result in removal from the membership rolls.

Article IV. Management

Section 1

The property of the Association shall be vested in the Association. The affairs of the Association shall be conducted by the Board of Directors.. Vacancies in the Board of Directors may be filled by the unit creating the vacancy,

Section 2 The Board of Directors

- (A) Each full membership unit , the Guild, and Historic Site/Historical Society will have one voting member on the Board of Directors, which are elected annually per their own unit system. The member units will notify the Executive Secretary each year prior to the Annual Meeting of their voting delegates for the year. Delegates will represent the interest of their Unit in all votes before the Board of Directors.
- (b) The Board of Directors shall have the power to suspend or expel members (Units / individuals) for cause, and to restore them to membership after suspension or expulsion. No member shall be suspended or expelled without being given ample opportunity to be heard in their own defense, as delineated in the by-laws, except for non-payment of dues.
- © A quorum of 51% of the member units must be present to vote on a motion before the Board of Directors.
- (d) The Board of Directors shall have no power to bind the Association to any expenditure of money beyond the actual resources of the Association.

Section 3 Executive Committee.

The Board of Directors shall elect annually a President, Vice President, Secretary/document master, Event Coordinator and Education Coordinator (Officers) from anyone who is an BVMA/VHA member in good standing for at least one year and is present at the Delegates meeting

These elected officers, as well as the Guild Chair, the Trustee elected from the Historical Societies, and Trustees elected from the Units, shall constitute the Executive Committee pf the BVMA/VHA The Executive Committee is empowered to go into special session, if such session is called for by any member of said board. Special session meetings are limited to Executive Committee members only, and all discussions are to be kept strictly confidential.

Section 4 **Standing Committees**

- (A) A nominating committee will be selected from the Board of Directors at their annual meeting, to develop a slate of officers for the BVMA . Once a slate has been completed, it is then presented to the Board of Directors at their annual meeting for approval or amendment. The slate of officers will include the President, Vice President, Secretary/document master, and Treasurer, Activities Coordinator and Education Coordinator

Article V. Officers of the Association

Section 1

The Officers of the Association shall include the President, Vice President, the Secretary/documents coordinator , Treasurer, Events Coordinator and Education Coordinator, all of whom are to be elected by the Board of Directors at the Board's Annual Meeting. Officers will hold office for two years, or until their successors are chosen.

- (A) **President:** the President shall preside at all meetings of the Board, and the Executive Committee, and see that the Association is operated in an efficient and business like manor. The President is an ex-officio member of all committees;. authorized to appoint one or more assistant secretaries/treasures, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors; assumes and performs such other duties as may be delegated by the Board of Directors; exercises general supervision over the activities of the Association, and recommends the adoption of policies in furtherance of these objectives; assures that the activities of the association are concentrated on those policies adopted by the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee ; shall present at each annual meeting of the Association a report of the conditions of the Association, with such recommendations for the future as deemed advisable; shall execute all agreements in the name of the Association, and see that they are properly carried to execution; shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors, and the Executive Committee.
- (B) **Vice President :** In the absence of the president, the President 's duties and responsibilities shall devolve upon the Vice-President.. The Vice President's specific duties are to assist the President in carrying out the presidents functions. The Vice President shall preside at all meetings of the Association membership.
- (C) **Treasurer:** The Treasurer shall have charge of all funds of the Association. The Treasurer will oversee all expenditures, and maintain accurate records of same and open appropriate accounts at the direction of the Board of Directors. The Treasurer will give a report at each Board meeting; this report will be approved/disapproved by majority vote. The Association books shall at all times be open to the inspection of the Board of Directors. During the absence or disability of the Treasurer, an assistant treasurer shall assume the duties of the Treasurer.
- (D) **Secretary/Document Master:** The secretary/document master shall keep the minutes and attendance of all meetings of the Board and Executive Committee; shall give and serve all

notices required by law, or the by-laws; shall be the Custodian of the records of the Association, and perform all duties incident to the office of Secretary; and shall assume such other duties that may be delegated by the Board of Directors.

- (E) **Guild Chairperson:** The Guild Chairperson shall coordinate Guild activity pursuant to their policy, and serve a Trustee to the BVMA Executive Committee.
- (F) **Event Coordinator.** The event coordinator will be responsible for coordinating and planning reenactment events to be supported by the BVMA/VHA membership. The coordinator will work with historic sites/venues in planning events, including logistics, reenactor requirements, liaison with other umbrellas, and establishment of command staffs. The event coordinator must have experience in the planning and execution of reenactments.
- (G) **Education Coordinator.** The Education Coordinator shall be responsible for coordinating all educational programming sponsored by the BVMA, including workshops, lectures, and interpretive programming at events.

Article VI. Funds

Section 1

Any funds donated to the Association must be used for Association purchases only, and are not for the use of individual units.

Section 2

All expenses exceeding \$500 must be approved by the Executive Committee. Any expenditures in excess of \$1000 must be approved by the Board of Directors.

Section 3

Units independent funds are not under the jurisdiction of the Association.

Section 4

Association funds are those donated to the Association for Association sponsored or pre-agreed participation as the Association

Section 5

All expenditures requiring a signature - checks, fund transfers, etc., must be signed by two of the following: Treasurer, President and Vice President.

Section 6

The rate of annual dues will be determined by the Board of Directors, at their first meeting of the fiscal year. The current dues rate for 2017 is:

Member units with 15 members or less: \$50;

Member units with 16 or more members: \$100

Historic sites/historical societies: \$25.

Section 7

The fiscal year runs from January 1 to December 31.

Article VII. Meetings

Section 1 The annual membership meeting of the Association shall be held in March. A quorum shall consist of 15 members of the Association. Subsequent meetings may be called upon the request in writing from an Association member.

Section 2

The annual Board of Directors meeting shall be held in January, during elections will be held for the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary/Document master, Treasurer, Event Coordinator and Education Coordinator.

Subsequent meetings may be called by the President or the Executive Committee. Any voting member may request that a meeting be called, and the President must act upon the request within 15 days.

Section 3

Special meetings of the BVMA may be called at any time by the Board of Directors. The notice of such meetings shall specify the objective thereof, and no business shall be transacted thereafter except as designated in the notice.

Section 4

At all membership meetings, all dues paying members in good standing shall each have one vote.

Section 5

A notice of each Annual or special meeting of the membership shall be made not less than 10 nor more than 40 days before the meeting. This notice may be provided by the Association's Yahoo Group.

Section 6

Any major decision that requires deliberation, or has extensive reading material not distributed prior to the meeting in accordance with the Association general notice requirements (Art. VII, Sec. 5), will be automatically tabled until the next meeting.

Article VIII. Due process

Section 1

Charges may be levied by any member against another member by requesting a hearing in writing from the Chairman. The member charged must be notified 30 days prior to a special executive session hearing; notification must include specific charges, and identify those levying the charges.

"Any member" means individual member, member unit, member of the Board of Directors, and Executive Board members.

Section 2

The Chairman will be the presiding officer at the hearing, unless they are charged, at which time the Deputy Chairman will preside.

Section 3

A quorum of 2/3 of the Executive Board members must be present at the hearing, and all findings, penalties, or exoneration of charges will be by a 2/3 vote.

Section 4

All penalties levied must be fair and reasonable, and the member charged has the right of appeal within 30 days under the same criteria as that for the original hearing. The Executive Board is empowered to remove individual members, member units, members of the Board of Directors, and Executive Board members if it is determined justified at the hearing.

Article IX. Change in By-laws (Amendments)

Section 1

These by-laws may be amended at any annual or special meeting of the Board of Directors by a majority vote of the members present thereat. No amendment to the by-laws shall voting on without a minimum 10 days prior posting on the BVMA Yahoo list, and the BVMA website. .

Article XI. Order of Business and Rules

Section 1

The following order of business, insofar as applicable, shall be followed at all meetings unless otherwise determined by the presiding officer:

1. Call to order
2. Proof of notice of meeting
3. Reading of minutes of previous annual or special meetings, and action thereon
4. Report of Association officers
5. Reports of standing committees
6. Reports of special committees
7. Unfinished business
8. New Business
9. Adjournment

Section 2

The procedure at all meetings of the Association and of the Board of Directors, where not provided for in the By-laws, shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order.

Article XII. Notice

Whenever any notice is required by these by-laws to be given. Official notice shall consist of a posting to the membership on the BVMA Yahoo group