

GPA MVHS BYLAWS

Bylaws of The GPA Military Vehicle Historical Society, Inc.

Article 1 Name

This organization shall be known as the GPA Military Vehicle Historical Society, Inc and is registered under that name for non-profit 501-3-C Status
GPA Military Vehicle Historical Society, Inc also known as GPAMVHS.
GPA stands for Greater Pennsylvania.

Article 2 Fundamental Purposes

The objectives, aims and purposes of the Society shall be as follows:

Section 1. Specific Purposes:

To aid and encourage the study, restoration, maintenance, and enjoyment of military vehicles of all nations and to increase communication and fellowship among those persons who are interested in these vehicles.

Section 2. General Purposes:

- (a) To promote and maintain an organization for the mutual advancement of the welfare of its members and of military vehicle enthusiasts in general by all proper, suitable and lawful means.
- (b) To exchange and disseminate information among its members and the general public on military vehicles.
- (c) To foster a spirit of good will among its members and to promulgate ethical practices in their relationship with each other and the public to the end that all interests may be served fairly.
- (d) To assist the member in all proper ways in matters affecting their welfare within the scope and functions set forth herein.
- (e) To provide an effective and independent voice in presenting the point of view of military vehicle enthusiasts in their relations with government at all levels and with the general public.
- (f) To promote the collection, restoration and preservation of military vehicles.
- (g) To collect and distribute information of all character relating to military vehicles.
- (h) To engage in any lawful activity to further and protect the interest of collectors and restorers of military vehicles.
- (i) To collect, preserve and disseminate data concerning military vehicles.

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- (j) To collect, preserve and display articles, specimens and material things illustrative or demonstrative of military vehicles and their accessories.
- (k) To perpetuate the memory of those, who by their labors and heroism, contributed to the history of military vehicles.
- (l) To permit the lawful display of military weapons at special functions such as reenactments, living histories, military displays, and parades. The possession and the use of any weapons must be in strict compliance with all applicable Federal, State and local laws. Firearms are permitted only in the context of completing the restoration of a military vehicle, associated military uniform, or reenactments, living histories, military displays, and parades. Members in possession of a firearm at a blank-firing exercise must agree to a search of their person for contraband material. Refusal to permit a search will result in non-participation in the reenactment, living history, military display, and parade. **NO LIVE AMMUNITION OR BLANKS EVER AT** reenactments, living histories, military displays, and parades.
- (m) To collect uniforms and other associated military memorabilia to be worn in the context of completing the restoration of a military vehicle or to provide a realistic historical background thereof.
- (n) To promote and encourage conduct in accordance with the standards established for good citizens of the United States of America, and as such, refrain from causing the public or any public agencies to believe that the Society is in any way related to any military or military type organization, be it official or unofficial, and accomplish this end by refraining from any individual or group activity that could reasonably cause confusion in the mind of the public or any public agency as to the status and purpose of the Society as solely a collectors' association.
- (o) To insure that no political connotations can be taken from the undertakings or the Society.

Article 3 Membership

Section 1. Regular Members:

- (a) Membership in the Society shall be contingent on application to the Society and payment of dues.
- (b) All members in the Society is to be considered a family membership up to the age of eighteen. At that time family members will be encouraged to buy an individual membership. However if the children are still in school or college they will still be considered to be family members. Only the named member shall vote.
- (c) All members must conduct themselves in a responsible and orderly fashion. Any member disgracing himself in the public eye in a manner which may bring discredit to GPAMVHS will be subject to expulsion from the Society after a proper hearing before the Executive Committee and the concurrence of a majority of that committee, present and voting.

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- (d) Members operating a licensed vehicle must hold a valid operator's license and must have the required public liability and property damage insurance coverage on that vehicle.
- (e) All applications shall be reviewed by the Treasurer as the Membership Chairman.
- (f) Dues for the Society shall be a reasonable amount as set by the Executive Committee each calendar year. Dues for Regular Membership shall be paid in advance. Any member whose dues are three months in arrears shall be dropped from the rolls of the Society. Dues are payable annually and shall run from January 1 to December 31.
- (g) The collection of dues will be as follows: For New Members joining the association between June 1st and October 1st will pay only ½ of yearly dues but will be liable for full dues the following year. If you join after October 1st you will pay full membership for the following year. If you join between January 1st and May 31st the dues are full amount for the year.
- (h) All personal expenses such as uniforms, decals, insignia, personal and vehicle insurance, and the like shall be borne by each individual member.
- (i) Members shall immediately notify the Secretary of changes in home address and/or home telephone number and email.
- (j) Upon termination of membership in the Society for any reason, the use of the name, any emblem, or any marks of the Society shall automatically be relinquished.

Section 2. Corporate Members:

- (a) Any group of persons, firm, organization, or corporation interested in military vehicles, their supplies, equipment, materials, publications, or other related services shall be eligible to be a Corporate Member. A Corporate Member shall have the same privileges as a Regular Member except that entity may not vote, hold office, or serve as any committee chairperson.
- (b) Corporate Membership fees shall be a reasonable amount as set by the Executive Committee each calendar year. Fees for Corporate Membership shall be paid annually and in advance. Memberships shall run from January 1 to December 31. Any Corporate Member whose fee is three months in arrears shall be dropped from the rolls of the Society.

Article 4 Officers

Section 1. Officers:

The Officers of the Society shall be the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Sergeant-at-Arms, all of whom shall be full voting members of the Executive Committee. The immediate Past President, Newsletter Editor, and Website Editor shall be non-voting member of the Executive Committee.

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Section 2. President:

The President shall be elected for a 2 year term at a regular election meeting called for that purpose. The President shall serve until his/her successor has been duly elected. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Executive Committee and of the General Membership, and shall exercise general supervision over the affairs of the Society, shall sign all written contracts of the Society, and shall perform such other duties as are incident to the office. The President shall call the Executive Committee to meet at least once each quarter of the year.

Section 3. Vice President:

The Vice President shall be elected and hold office in the same manner as the President. A Vice President shall assume the duties of the President in case of absence or disability or upon written request of the President.

Section 4. Secretary:

The Secretary shall be elected and hold office in the same manner as the President. The Secretary shall issue notice of all meetings of the Executive Committee and the general membership of the Society, shall attend and keep minutes of the meeting, shall have charge of the Society's books, records and papers except the current records required by the Treasurer in the execution of his/her office, shall be the custodian of the Society seal and attest with his/her signature. The Secretary shall publish a record of each meeting in the following month's Newsletter. Also, the Secretary shall be the second name identified in the club bank accounts.

Section 5. Treasurer:

The Treasurer shall be elected and hold office in the same manner as the President. The Treasurer shall collect dues and fees, and shall have custody of such monies and securities of the Society as the Executive Committee shall from time to time direct. The Treasurer shall sign all checks of the Society, shall keep regular books of account, shall submit them together with all vouchers, receipts, records and other papers to the Executive Committee for their examination and approval as often as they may reasonably require, and shall perform all such other duties as are incident to his/her office. A financial report shall be provided to the general membership both at a regular meeting and in the next issue of the Newsletter.

Section 6. Sergeant-at-Arms:

The Sergeant-at-Arms shall be elected and hold office in the same manner as the President. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall sound the call to order at the start of each meeting and the Sergeant-at-Arms shall insure that the meetings are kept peaceful at all times.

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The Sergeant-at-Arms shall perform all other duties as are incident to the office or as directed by the President. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall also be the GPA property manager, and shall maintain and inventory of property as needed.

Section 7. Immediate Past President:

The Immediate Past President shall attain that office upon his/her replacement by a duly elected President. Immediate Past President shall counsel and advise the Executive Committee. Immediate Past President shall be a non-voting member of the Executive Committee.

Section 8. Newsletter Editor:

The Newsletter Editor shall be appointed by majority vote of the Executive Committee on a yearly basis. The Newsletter Editor shall be responsible for the publication of the Society newsletter on a monthly basis that shall be distributed 10 days before a meeting. The purpose of the newsletter is to provide the membership with announcements of meeting, meets, and other club activities; to furnish technical and nontechnical articles and information relating to military vehicles and their restoration. It also provides a free advertising service to noncommercial members of the Society. Paid advertisements may be solicited, and all monies so realized shall be delivered to the Treasurer. The Newsletter Editor shall be a non-voting member of the Executive Committee.

Section 9. Website Editor:

The Website Editor shall be appointed by majority vote of those members present and voting when required. The Website Editor shall be responsible for the Society website. The purpose of the website is to provide the membership with announcements of meeting, meets, and other club activities. It also provides a free advertising service to noncommercial members of the Society. Paid advertisements may be solicited, and all monies so realized shall be delivered to the Treasurer. The Website Editor shall be a non-voting member of the Executive Committee.

Section 10. Conflict of Interest:

- (a) Any elected or appointed officer of the Society shall serve without compensation, either directly or indirectly, of any type for the term of his/her office. All officers, elected or appointed, are expected to follow the guidelines set forth in ARTICLE 2 "Fundamental Purposes" and to promote and maintain the Society for the mutual advancement of the welfare of all its members. The Executive Committee shall allow reasonable exceptions for items deemed essential to the purposes of the organization.
- (b) Any member, who feels that an officer could be in conflict with the fundamental purposes of the Society and could stand to gain personally from holding office in the Society, shall make formal written appeal to the Executive Committee for clarification of that issue via the Secretary. The Secretary shall then give written notice to all

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members of the Executive Committee, and shall be empowered to call a special meeting of the Executive Committee within 30 days of receipt of the formal appeal.

- (b1) The Executive Committee, less the officer in question, shall meet, deliberate and render its decision within 30 days of the meeting. The officer in question shall not sit as a member of the Executive Committee during the deliberation, but may present such information, records and testimony as may be pertinent to the matter.
- (c) A majority of the Executive Committee present and voting shall be required to remove an officer from his/her office. The Executive Committee must recommend a replacement to fill the vacancy as set forth in ARTICLE 4, Section 11.

Section 11. Removal:

Upon a majority vote of the Executive Committee present and voting, any officer may be removed from office. Removal shall be only for causes of malfeasance or neglect of duty. No officer shall be removed without a successor being named at the same meeting. This successor may serve only to the end of his/her predecessor's normal term, when the office shall again be subject to be filled in the appropriate manner. Removal from office may be temporary or permanent as prescribed by the Executive Committee.

Article 5 Executive Committee

Section 1. The affairs of this Society shall be governed and controlled by the duly established Executive Committee as described and named in ARTICLE 4, Officers, of these Bylaws.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall be elected from the current membership of this Society. The present officers shall have charge of the business of this Society, and shall serve as such until their successors are duly chosen.

Section 3. Meetings of the Executive Committee may be called by the President, or in his/her absence, by the Vice President, said meeting to be held at the principal office of the Society or at such other place as the Executive Committee, shall determine. By majority consent of the Executive Committee, a special meeting of the Committee may be held without notice to the general membership at any time and at any place. A report of the executive committee meeting will be given at the next membership meeting posted in the next issue of the newsletter.

Section 4. Notice of all meetings, except those specified in the next to last sentence of Section 3 of this ARTICLE, shall be emailed and call by phone to each committee member by the Secretary at least three (3) days prior to the time fixed for the meeting, and where possible, the meeting shall be announced at the regular membership meeting.

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Section 5. A quorum for the transaction of business at a regular or special meeting of the Executive Committee shall consist of a majority of the Committee, but a majority of those at any special meeting shall have the power to adjourn the meeting to a future time.

Section 6. Each member of the Executive Committee shall have but one vote with the exception of the Past President, Newsletter Editor and Website Editor, who shall have no vote.

Section 7. The members of this Society shall elect the officers of the Society, such elections to be held by mail ballot between two meetings of the Society.

Section 8. Vacancies in the Executive Committee shall be filled by a majority vote of the committee members at any regular or special meeting. When necessary, Executive Committee vacancies may be filled, on a temporary basis, by Presidential appointment.

Article 6 Meetings

Section 1. Special meetings of the membership may be called by the President or by a majority vote of the Executive Committee. A written or printed notice or confirming telephone call stating place, day, hour and purpose of the meeting shall be given to each entitled member at the address appearing on the Society records by the Secretary not less than three days before such meeting.

- (a) Meetings shall be either special as called above Section 1 or regular monthly meeting. No other gathering shall be classed as a meeting.

Section 2. At all meetings of the membership, one officer and ten (10) percent of the members in good standing shall constitute a quorum.

Section 3. Election of officers, amendments to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, shall be mailed out to membership to be voted on.

Section 4. Elections

- (a) Elections will be held every 2 years during the month of November. The election ballot shall accompany the GPA Newsletter. It will be provided to all GPAMVHS members in good standing, mailed to the address appearing on the records of the Society, and shall be returned to a specific "Election Address" to be counted.
- (b) When there is an elective change in office all records and monies are to be transferred to the new officer within thirty days.

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- (c) To conduct the election of officers' process, a nominating committee will be named prior to October 1st by the Vice President. The nominating committee will consist of an uneven number of members, no more than two of whom may be from the Executive Committee not running for office. Nominating committee will solicit nominations for every office.
- (d) If a meeting be impossible due to wide dispersion of the members, such meeting will be conducted by mail with the Secretary or his designate being responsible for the tabulation and publishing of the results.

Section 5. The order of Business at all meetings shall be conducted in a parliamentary manner in accordance with "Roberts' Rules of Order" insofar as practical.

Section 6. The rules, regulations, and safety precautions as proposed and accepted by the Executive Committee and approved by the general membership shall govern the conduct of the Society.

Article 7

Finances and Expenditures

Section 1. The finances of the Society shall be governed and controlled by the Treasurer, subject always to the supervision and direction of the Executive Committee.

Section 2. The depository of the society shall be such bank within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania so designated by the Treasurer and approved by the Executive Committee.

Section 3. All checks, drafts, warrants and orders for payment of money by the Society shall be in the name of the Society and signed by the Treasurer and or the Secretary, approved by a simple majority of members present at a regular meeting.

Section 4. The operation of the Society shall be financed by a per-capita membership payment, sale of literature, donations, etc., and the raising of revenue in connection with Society activities.

Section 5. The amount of per-capita membership payment shall be set by the Executive Committee.

Section 6. Fiscal economy shall be observed at all times.

Section 7. The President shall have the power to approve expenditures not to exceed one hundred dollars without the authorization of the Executive Committee. Such expenditures shall be reported by check, and the item for which each check is drawn shall be designated on the face or reverse side thereof. If funds for more than one purpose are included, they

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shall be itemized separately, stating the amount of each. Such expenditures shall be reported to the Executive Committee at their next meeting.

Section 8. The fiscal year shall run from January 1 through December 31, each year.

Section 9. Treasurer shall file taxes, timely each year, for the Society.

Section 10. Treasurer shall make a detailed report at each membership meeting listing all income and expenditures and said report shall be approved by a vote of a simple majority of the members present.

Section 11. There will be an annual financial audit performed by an Audit Committee within 90 days of the end of the calendar year or within 30 days of change of Treasurer.

Section 12. GPA must have Liability Insurance.

Article 8

Dissolution and Distribution of Assets

Section 1. The dissolution of the corporation happens upon a 2/3 vote of the current membership. Ballots will be mailed to all current members.

Section 2. Upon the winding up and dissolution of this corporation, after paying or adequately providing for the debts and obligations of the corporation, the remaining assets shall be distributed to a non-profit fund, foundation or corporation, which is organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, or religious and/or scientific purposes and which has established its tax-exempt status under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Section 3. No part of the net earnings of this corporation shall ever inure to or for the benefit of be distributed to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the exempt purposes for which it is formed.

Section 4. Notwithstanding any other provisions of these articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.

Article 9

Amendments to Bylaws

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Section 1. Amendments to these Bylaws or Rules and Regulations may be proposed by any member to the Executive Committee who will approve or disapprove the request. If disapproved, member may bring the request to the general membership for approval by a petition signed by at least ten percent of members in good standing.

Section 2. Once duly proposed by the Bylaw committee, an amendment shall be presented to the membership for ratification. Such ratification will be mailed to membership to be voted on.

Section 3. No section or portion of the Bylaws may be waived except by change of the Bylaws as described above.

Article 10 Appendix #1 Rules and Regulations

1. **NO LIVE or BLANK AMMUNITION** at any GPA events. (reenactments, living histories, military displays, and parades will be run by their host's rules.)
2. Vehicles must have a current working, modern, vehicle Fire Extinguisher.
3. All members must have Liability Insurance on their military vehicles driven to club events or parades.
4. GPA will not pay for Alcoholic Beverages.
5. At GPA events consumption of Alcohol is Forbidden.

6. Dues can be paid by vehicle credit for attendance at paid parades and paid static displays in the calendar year following that event as per the following:
 - 1/4ton - 3 paid parades/paid static displays
 - 3/4ton - 2 paid parades/paid static displays
 - 1 ton and up - 1 paid parade/paid static displays
7. Paid parades and Paid static displays will appear in the newsletter and on the website and will be listed as such. There may be other parades and events appearing in the newsletter and on the website that you do not receive vehicle credit. Attendance at these events will not earn credit toward payment of dues.

8. All food or meals purchased by the GPA has to be pre-approved by a majority vote of the Executive Committee or a vote of the membership at a scheduled Club meeting.
9. No one can commit, obligate or contract the GPA without permission of the Executive Committee.
10. All members must have a **valid** Driver's License
11. All new members shall receive a copy of the Bylaws upon joining.

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12. Club picnics – Members and Spouses, Children up to 18 yrs. can attend at no cost. A member can bring up to 2 persons (non-members) at \$10.00 each.

Article 11 Appendix #2 Committees

Section 1. There shall be standing committees of the GPA. At the January General Meeting, all chairpersons shall present a report consisting of activities, budget, and schedule for the upcoming year. It shall be the duty of all committees to promote the objectives of the GPA.

Section 2. The GPA shall have a number of committees. Generally, a committee will consist of chair and assistant plus any other persons required. Committee chairman shall be appointed by the executive committee, following input from general membership. Committee will stand for a period of 1 calendar year.

Section 3. Bylaws Committee

Section 4. Audit Committee

Section 5. Nominating Committee – See page 7 Article 6 Meeting Section 4

Section 6. Events Committee

POC's need to provide a list of names and vehicles that participate in parades or displays to the treasurer.

Section 7. Membership Committee

Responsible for processing new applications for new members; soliciting new members. This committee shall, also, illicit financial and other support for the GPA.

Section 8. Safety Committee

Shall have absolute responsibility regarding safety at events.

Revised July 1, 1981

Revised Dec, 7, 1987

Revised Feb. 10, 1989

Revised April 3, 2011

Bylaws and Rules and Regulations ratified by the membership on July 2011

Revised to add in By-law amendments voted on by the club in 2013

Changes 2015