

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

GMC GREAT LAKERS MOTORHOME CLUB, INC. CHAPTER FAMILY MOTOR COACH ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE I – CHAPTER NAME AND INCORPORATION

1. The name of this not-for-profit organization shall be the GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club, Inc. chapter (hereinafter referred to as “chapter”) of the Family Motor Coach Association, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as “FMCA”).
2. This chapter is incorporated in the state of Michigan under the name of GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club, Inc. This corporation is a nonprofit mutual benefit corporation organized under the Michigan Nonprofit Corporation Act.

ARTICLE II – OBJECT

1. **PURPOSE:** This chapter exists to promote social, recreational, and informational exchange activities that provide for the enjoyment and pleasurable use of family motor coaches.
2. **AREA:** This chapter shall be authorized to function in the area served by The Great Lakes Area MotorCoach Association (GLAMA) including all states and Canadian provinces that touch the Great Lakes.
3. **SCOPE:** This chapter will have members with a mutual interest in the maintenance, preservation, and care of the classic Class “A” GMC motorhome produced from 1973 to 1978 with a Vehicle Identification Number commencing with the letters “TZE”.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERS

1. ELIGIBILITY

- A. To be eligible for and maintain membership in the chapter, a person must be in good standing with the FMCA, and meet the dues requirement and provisions set forth in the bylaws of this chapter.
- B. A member must own at least one-third (1/3) of a Class “A” GMC Motorhome produced from 1973 to 1978 with a Vehicle Identification Number commencing with the letters “TZE” and use the same vehicle at GMC Great Lakers Motorhome Club rallies. The chapter president must approve any exception by a member to use another vehicle.
- C. Membership in this chapter shall not be denied any person because of race, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, religion, color, marital or family status, age, nationality, disability or political beliefs.

2. DEFINITIONS

- A. The term “family unit” is defined as a person; his or her spouse, or partner; dependents of each, regardless of age; non-dependent grandchildren and great-grandchildren aged 18 and under.

- B. The term “membership” is defined as either a family unit or an individual or individuals owning a qualifying motor coach who share a membership number.
 - C. The term “member” is defined as each adult who, jointly or individually, constitutes a membership. The rights of each member are defined in the description of each category contained in Article III (3) of the FMCA Bylaws.
 - D. The term “qualifying motor coach”, is defined as a self-propelled, completely self-contained vehicle that contains all the conveniences of a home, including cooking, sleeping, and permanent sanitary facilities, and in which the driver’s area is directly accessible in a walking position from the living quarters. The terms motor coach and motorhome may be used interchangeably.
3. **VOTING AND HOLDING OFFICE:** A member must own a qualifying motor coach (motorhome) or at least one-third (1/3) interest in a qualifying motor coach (motorhome) in order to vote or hold office in this chapter. Only Charter Members and Full Members have the right to hold office in this chapter.
4. **DUES AND FEES**
- A. **ANNUAL DUES:** Annual payment of chapter and FMCA national dues enables persons to become active members and entitled to all rights and privileges of the chapter and FMCA. Dues for membership in the chapter shall be an amount, as the membership shall establish for charter, full and associate members.
 - B. **RENEWAL:** Renewal dues from chapter members become due and payable January 1.
 - C. **INITIAL APPLICATION:** Application for new membership shall be accompanied by payment of annual chapter and FMCA national dues (unless already an FMCA member). If an initial application is accepted after December 1, the dues shall be regarded as covering the next membership year.
 - D. **INITIATION FEE:** New and reinstated members may be required to pay an initiation fee in an amount to be established by the chapter membership.
 - E. **ARREARS:** Any member whose dues remain unpaid for more than two (2) months after becoming due shall be considered delinquent - their names will not appear in the member directory and will not receive club publications; after six (6) months their membership is canceled, they forfeit their chapter membership and cease to have any rights, title, or interest in the affairs, conduct or property of the club.

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS

5. **DUTIES OF OFFICERS:** The duties of elected officers shall be defined in the *Member and Volunteer Handbook*.
6. **RIGHTS AND LIMITATIONS:**
- A. An individual FMCA member may hold either a single office in each of two chapters or two offices in one chapter. A member may hold the office of FMCA National Director or Alternate FMCA National Director in only one chapter.
 - B. Only one member of a family unit shall be entitled to hold an elective position during any given year.

- C. No official or member shall become vested of any right, title to, or interest in any chapter property, except as required by law.

7. **EXECUTIVE BOARD:**

- A. The following officers of the chapter shall constitute the Executive Board: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, FMCA National Director, Alternate FMCA National Director, Director-at-Large and the immediate Past President.
- B. The Executive Board shall have general supervision of the affairs of the chapter between business meetings. The Board shall be subject to the orders of the chapter, and none of its acts shall be in conflict with the chapter of FMCA.

ARTICLE V – COMMITTEES

- 1. **APPOINTMENT:** Committee members and a chairperson (except the Nominating Committee) shall be appointed by the president.
- 2. **DUTIES:** All committees shall function within the policies of the chapter and (except the Nominating Committee) under the direction of the president. Committee members may participate in chapter Executive Board meetings only when requested by the chapter president.
- 3. **QUORUM:** A committee quorum shall be a majority.

ARTICLE VI – CHAPTER ADMINISTRATION

- 1. **AUTHORITY:** This chapter shall be democratically self-governed, deriving its existence and authority from the consent of its membership.
- 2. **ORGANIZATIONAL YEAR:** The fiscal and membership year of the chapter shall commence on January 1st and end on December 31st.
- 3. **CHAPTER MEETINGS:**
 - A. The term “meeting” shall include coach rallies, campouts, dinner meetings, and any other gatherings suitable to the function of the chapter.
 - B. **BUSINESS MEETINGS:** In each fiscal year, a chapter shall hold at least one business meeting at which a quorum is present. The meeting can be a gathering in one area or where some or all of the members communicate with other members through electronic means such as the Internet or by telephone that allows all members the opportunity for simultaneous aural communication. Said meeting shall be duly announced in advance to the membership, including adequate description of how to participate.
 - 1). There shall be no less than four (4) chapter meetings held each fiscal year.
 - 2). Business meetings are to be held during each chapter rally, as determined by the president.
 - C. **OFFICER ELECTION:** The voting general membership is to elect chapter officers, including a president, vice president, a secretary, a treasurer, a FMCA national director, an alternate FMCA national director and a director-at-large.
 - D. **QUORUM:** A quorum for the transaction of business at any duly-called chapter meeting is 25% of the chapter family unit memberships or fifteen family unit memberships, whichever is less.

E. VOTING:

- 1). The chapter has established that voting will be **one vote per membership number.**
- 2). Except as specified elsewhere in these bylaws, a simple majority vote of members in good standing, eligible to vote and voting shall be required to approve or disapprove any matter.
- 3). Voting may be conducted at a business meeting, or by mail, email or other electronic means. (NOTE: Chapters that allow for an election or other proposed matter to be decided by mail, email or other electronic means may not also allow voting on the election or the proposed matter at a meeting).

F. PARLIAMENTARY PROCESS: The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern this chapter's proceedings to which they are applicable and in which they are consistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of FMCA, and the bylaws of this chapter.

4. MAINTAINING ACCREDITATION:

- A. This chapter must maintain a minimum of fifteen (15) family unit memberships.
- B. The chapter secretary shall furnish to the national office of FMCA, no later than December 31st of each year, a membership list, a list of chapter officers, and assurance that a business meeting was held.

5. ANNUAL AUDIT: An annual audit of the chapter's financial books and records shall be undertaken and reported to the membership.

6. APPLICATION OF NATIONAL CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS: This chapter accepts and agrees that the chapter bylaws shall conform to any mandatory requirements stipulated in the Constitution and Bylaws of FMCA.

ARTICLE VII - ELECTIONS

1. NOMINATING COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

- A. The Nominating Committee shall consist of not less than three (3) members in good standing, nominated and elected yearly by the chapter membership following the first Executive Board meeting of the year.
- B. Election of an individual to the Nominating Committee shall not prohibit that person from being nominated for elected office.

2. NOMINATING COMMITTEE DUTIES

- A. To select one of its members as Nominating Committee Chairman.
- B. To nominate candidates for the chapter offices of president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, FMCA national director, an alternate FMCA national director and a director-at-large for the new term to be presented for voting by the chapter membership.
- C. To obtain clear acceptance of the nominees to serve the chapter should they be elected.
- D. To make certain that nominated candidates are members in good standing and qualified under applicable national and chapter bylaws.
- E. To nominate candidates to fill vacancies that may occur in elected chapter offices.

ARTICLE VIII – AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

1. **MANDATORY AMENDMENTS:** National Bylaw amendments applicable to chapter operations shall be automatically adopted by the chapter and are not subject to a vote by the chapter membership.
2. **AMENDING PROCEDURE:** These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the members present and voting at a duly-called meeting, at which a quorum is present, providing that prior notice of at least 30 days has been given of the proposition(s) to amend. Balloting by mail may be undertaken when the proposed amendment is of such importance that the wishes of the greatest possible number of chapter membership should be made known.
 - A. Any member of the chapter may propose amendments to the bylaws.
 - B. Approved amendments to these bylaws become effective immediately upon their adoption, or at such time as specified in the amendment.
3. **DISTRIBUTION:** Copies of changes, additions, amendments, or revisions to these bylaws shall be forwarded to the national office and to the National Area Vice President.

ARTICLE IX – STANDING RULES

This chapter may adopt Standing Rules to provide guidelines and procedures by which the chapter may function and operate.

ARTICLE X – LIQUIDATION AND DISSOLUTION

This chapter of FMCA may be dissolved by a majority vote of chapter members. All of the physical property of the chapter shall be offered for sale to the chapter members before being offered to the public. Proceeds, after payment of all debts, shall be donated to a qualified non-profit charity or charities of the chapter's choice.

Revision History:

1. Approved by the membership July 28, 2017