



CROWN *Firecoach* ENTHUSIASTS



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER, SPAAMFAA
Society for the Preservation and Appreciation of Antique Motor Fire Apparatus in America

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Southern California Chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Appreciation of Antique Motor Fire Apparatus in America, AKA Crown Firecoach Enthusiasts: herein referred to as the Association.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

The objectives and purposes for which the Crown Firecoach Enthusiasts is formed shall be exclusively charitable, educational and social within the meaning of section 501 (c) (3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as the same may be amended and in particular:

1. To promote the preservation, restoration and operation of historic fire fighting equipment and apparatus. By establishment and maintenance of archives and instructional information that will bring about a better understanding and appreciation by communities of their history and tradition of the fire service.
2. To institute and present fire prevention and educational displays. By discussing topics and exchange of ideas, and to cooperate with the fire service in the campaign of fire safety and to engage in charitable and benevolent activities in support of these objectives.
3. To create and maintain a brotherly and fraternal feeling and to perpetuate a spirit of friendship among our membership. To meet and assemble in a minimum of four meetings annually and there advise ways and means by deliberation to improve on our purpose and objectives.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall consist of the following classifications: Organizational, Individual, Family, Honorary and Life.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIP:

Any fire department or other organization interested in vintage fire apparatus, as defined by the Board of Directors, shall be eligible for membership and shall designate one of their organization's members to be their representative. Organizational membership entitles the organization to one vote, which should be cast by the organization's representative. Only organization members having Individual or Family memberships may hold office in the Association, but organization members may attend and participate in meetings, drills, parades and other functions of the Association.

REQUIREMENTS FOR INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP:

An person who owns vintage fire apparatus, collects historic fire equipment, or is interested in the purposes for which this Association was formed, may make application for Association membership. This membership carries one vote for persons over 18 years of age.

REQUIREMENTS FOR FAMILY MEMBERSHIP:

A Family Membership shall be two or more immediate members of one family who own vintage fire apparatus or are interested in the purposes for which this Association was formed. This membership carries two votes (spouses only) for the entire family but permits all members of the family to participate in all activities of the Association. The dues for a Family Membership shall be 1-1/2 times the dues for an Individual Membership.

REQUIREMENTS FOR HONORARY MEMBERSHIP:

An honorary member shall be a person whom the membership feels worthy of this membership for the betterment of the Association. An honorary member shall not be eligible to vote, hold office, or be required to pay dues. Honorary membership will be voted on at membership meetings and require a two-thirds affirmative vote of members present.

REQUIREMENTS FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP:

A life member is a member in good standing that has shown exemplary and outstanding service to the Association. A life member shall have the same rights as individual members and will not be required to pay dues. Life membership will be voted on at membership meetings and require a two-thirds affirmative vote of members present.

SPAAMFAA:

The Association, having been chartered as the Southern California Chapter of the National Society for the Preservation and Appreciation of Antique Motor Fire Apparatus in America, and in compliance with that Society's bylaws, suggest that all Organizational, Individual and Family members of the Association should be current members of the National Society. Any members of the Association are eligible for SPAAMFAA membership, although this membership is voluntary. Board members must be members of the National Society.

ARTICLE IV – DUES

The amount of dues shall be determined by the Executive Board. All dues are due and become payable by January 1st. Any member in arrears for more than two months shall be dropped from membership in the Association.

Dues will be accepted for no more than three years in advance. New member's dues received after October 1st will be credited to the next year and the new member will not receive back issues of the newsletter for the current year.

Any member of this association who is discharged for non-payment of dues, or expelled from the Association for misconduct, shall immediately turn over to the Treasurer any and all property belonging to the Association.

ARTICLE V – DECLARATION OF POLICY

Membership obligations in the Association shall in no way conflict with the regular duties of any member who belongs to a regular or volunteer fire department. This Association is not a fire department organization.

ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS

There will be a minimum of four scheduled Association meetings each year. The Executive Board will meet a minimum of four times each year on the same date as the Association meetings.

ARTICLE VII – ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Calling of the roll.
2. President's introduction of guests and speakers.
3. Reading of the minutes of the previous meeting.
4. Treasurer's report.
5. Membership report.
6. Reading of communications and bills.
7. Reports of committees.
8. National SPAAMFAA – reports & communications.
9. Old business.
10. New business.
11. Round table.
12. Election of Officers (if required).
13. Adjournment.
14. Program.

ARTICLE VIII – OFFICERS

SECTION 1. The officers of this Association shall be: President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary and six Directors. Also, the immediate Past President and the Newsletter Editor shall be considered ex-officio officers. The above named officers shall constitute the Executive Board of the Association.

SECTION 2. Eligibility for office shall be limited to those who have been members of the Association for a minimum of one year and a member in good standing of SPAAMFAA prior to election, or a subsequent appointment to office or Board membership.

SECTION 3. Seven members of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Board. Officers shall serve a term of two years, with elections being held on odd numbered years. Directors shall serve a term of two years, with elections being held on even numbered years. At the discretion of the Board of Directors, Officers and Directors who do not attend 50% of all meetings may be removed from office.

ARTICLE IX – DUTIES OF OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Shall preside at all meetings of the Association and the Executive Board. The President shall appoint all committees and appointed positions.

VICE-PRESIDENT: Shall preside in the capacity of President in the President's absence, and shall act as an advisor to the President.

RECORDING SECRETARY: Shall act as Secretary for Association meetings, Executive Board meetings, and perform other duties as directed by the President. The Recording Secretary shall keep a record of all votes cast in each election.

TREASURER: Shall collect all monies of the Association and be custodian of same, and shall pay all authorized bills presented for payment. The Treasurer shall render an accounting of finances of the Association at the meetings and at any other time when requested to do so.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Shall maintain all membership records, and shall maintain and publish membership rosters periodically.

DIRECTORS: Shall be responsible for coordinating drills, meets, musters, parades, and manage apparatus owned and acquired by the Association. Directors shall perform other duties as directed by the President.

GENERAL: The Executive Board shall act as auditors, and examine the Treasurer's books annually, in the fourth quarter. In the event of a vacancy of any elected official, the unexpired term shall be appointed by the Executive Board.

ARTICLE X – DUTIES OF APPOINTED POSITIONS

HISTORIAN: Shall maintain the Association's historical records and archives. The Historian shall solicit historic fire apparatus information to be included in the Association's archives, and shall make this information available to interested parties by whatever means necessary.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Shall be present, or have a representative, at all Executive Board meetings and activities at which the Association is officially represented. The Newsletter shall be the official source of communication with the general membership. The Newsletter shall be published at least quarterly and at such times as the Editor has important or other sufficient information to report to the membership.

SAFETY OFFICER: The safety officer shall be appointed from the Executive Board by the President. The Safety Officer shall supervise the handling and operation of each apparatus and piece of equipment being used, and the conduct and safety of members riding thereon or using same, making certain that the general rules and regulations from the SPAAMFAA safety manual and the Association's safety manual are followed.

WEBMASTER: Shall maintain the Association's website in such a manner as to keep the membership informed and up to date on the Association's activities, coming and past events.

ARTICLE XI – CONDUCT AND DUTIES OF MEMBERS

Dismissal from the Association shall take a two-thirds affirmative vote of the membership present at the meeting, with the charges submitted in writing by the Executive Board.

Attendance of Association, Honorary and Group members at drills, musters, parades and demonstrations shall be encouraged at all times. Drills, musters, parades and demonstrations are to be conducted solely for the purpose of member training and instruction, and exhibition and instruction in the public interest.

Any activities which may result in injury to members or spectators, or shall reflect negatively upon the Association or the fire service, shall be prohibited.

The following activities shall be subject to the following rules and regulations:

a) Activities involving the use of apparatus shall be limited, though not necessarily confined, to those indigenous to the fire service or at which the presence of fire apparatus is not unusual.

b) No apparatus shall be used in Association sponsored functions unless it is properly and adequately insured, in safe operating condition in the opinion of the Executive Board, and be of a clean, neat, and presentable appearance.

c) Apparatus shall not, under any circumstances, be operated in excess of posted speed regulations or in any manner deemed by the supervising officers to be imprudent, dangerous or unsafe. Anytime an apparatus is in “reverse”, a spotter must be used.

d) The drinking of intoxicating beverages upon the apparatus, whether or not it shall be in motion, shall be strictly prohibited.

No member shall conduct himself/herself in such a manner as to do injury to himself/herself, or to others, or in such a manner as would reflect negatively upon the Association or the fire service.

ARTICLE XII – REINSTATEMENT

Application for reinstatement of an expelled member shall be submitted in writing to the Executive Board and it shall require a two-thirds affirmative vote of the membership present at a meeting and a payment of outstanding accounts to become effective.

ARTICLE XIII – COMMITTEES

The President shall appoint all committees. No committee shall involve the Association in any commitment whatsoever until so authorized by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the Executive Board. The President shall be a member of all committees.

ARTICLE XIV – STANDING COMMITTEES

BYLAWS: It shall review the bylaws regularly and submit changes to the Board of Directors as necessary.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS: It shall be responsible for nominations and elections. The committee shall be put into operation at the Second Quarter meeting each year.

ARTICLE XV – PARADES MEETS AND MUSTERS

The Executive Board shall approve the Association’s participation in any activities.

ARTICLE XVI – ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER

ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER shall decide all questions not governed by the bylaws of the Association.

ARTICLE XVII – GENERAL

The Association reserves the right to amend these bylaws at any time or increase or decrease the amounts for dues to be paid by the membership.

Amendments to the bylaws shall be submitted in writing and shall require a two-thirds affirmative vote of the voting membership present at a regular meeting to become effective. The amendments shall be submitted to the Executive Board and voting members present at a meeting, read and discussed, and held over for the next regular meeting for a vote. The Executive Board shall include as part of the meeting notices, a notification that amendments to the bylaws will be proposed and/or acted upon at that particular meeting.

ARTICLE XVIII – NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

SECTION 1. The Nomination and Election Committee shall be put into operation at the second quarter meeting.

SECTION 2. Nominations to office may be made by the Nomination and Election Committee and from the floor of the third quarter meeting. Nominations are to be closed at the conclusion of that meeting.

SECTION 3. Balloting with respect to the election of Officers and Directors shall be held annually as required, and be done collectively by written ballot during the Fourth Quarter meeting. Ballots are to be collected and tallied during the election meeting and in the presence of the attending membership by a teller committee of no fewer than three (3) members. A tie will be resolved by a separate ballot distributed to all eligible voters at said meeting. Absentee ballots will be available by request, and only by request, from the Nomination and Election Committee after the Third Quarter meeting.

SECTION 4. The election results will be posted and deemed as final during the first meeting following the election. All elected Officers will be sworn in and will assume office at that meeting.

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