

By-Laws for Colonial Maine Living History Association (CMLHA)

(Hereafter referred to as the “organization”)

Adopted Feb 25, 2023

Purpose:

The purpose of the organization is to provide members with the opportunity to experience and interpret a broad range of the history of colonial New England through living history and reenacting.

Members:

1. There shall be two classes of members:
 - a. Associate Members: Any person may become an associate member by submitting a membership application and paying dues. They may attend all assemblages, but may not vote or hold any elected position.
 - b. Full Members: They may attend all assemblages, and may vote and hold an elected position.
2. Process: Any person who is over the age of 18, has been an associate member for at least 6 months, and has paid dues becomes eligible for full membership. This process shall require a majority vote at a business meeting.
3. A parent or legal guardian must accompany any member under 18 years of age at all times at any organizational event.

Dues:

The Membership year runs from one Annual Meeting until the following Annual Meeting. Membership Dues for the ensuing year will be determined at the Annual Meeting. Dues are payable immediately following the Annual Meeting and must be paid before attending any CMLHA-sanctioned reenactment. If Dues are paid in person at a reenactment, the paying member will be permitted to attend as a CMLHA Member. For the purposes of this section, a reenactment is any public event, demonstration, or gathering where CMLHA Members are officially participating as CMLHA Members and thus covered by CMLHA insurance.

Arrears and Suspension:

Members who have not paid their Dues by the next Annual Meeting will be no longer be considered a “Member in good standing” and ineligible to vote until Dues are paid.

Members who have not paid Dues for two or more consecutive years shall be dropped from the CMLHA Membership Rolls and must reapply for membership.

Officers:

1. Leadership positions and their duties include but are not limited to:
 - a) President: responsible for communications, correspondences
 - b) Treasurer: collects all dues, handles all monies, administer of accounts
 - c) Secretary: responsible for meeting notes at Annual Meeting
2. Organization leadership will be decided each year at the Annual Meeting.

Meetings:

1. All meetings of this organization will be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.
2. The Annual Meeting will be held in February.

Safety Standards:

1. The Organization will operate under the “Continental Line Safety Guide to Black Powder” guidelines.
2. Safety inspections and general inspections will be conducted before each event.
3. An age limit of 16 years is set for any member to carry and form up with a musket.

Authenticity Standards:

1. Overall organizational Authenticity Standards shall be established by leadership. Specific event Authenticity Standards shall be established before each event by the event host. All Authenticity Standards shall be adhered to by all members of the organization.

Reenactment Events:

1. All organization engagements will be held rain or shine unless cancelled by the host event coordinator.
2. All meals and water supply will be the responsibility of individual members of the organization.
3. No guests will be allowed to participate in reenactment events, as they are not covered by the organization's insurance.
4. All members should arrive as early as possible for organizational activities and help with set-up and breakdown of camp / displays.

Organizational Policies:

1. All organization engagements will be decided by membership vote.
2. All expenditures of the organization's money will be decided by membership vote.
4. There is no requirement for Members to attend any CMLHA functions. Participation is welcome, and encouraged, but we understand personal schedules and commitments may restrict it.
5. Any member may propose that the unit attend a reenactment event.
6. Any member or group of members may propose that the unit host a reenactment event.
7. Members may portray a variety of impressions/ personas, depending on the focus of the event they are attending. However, historic sites require specific information about the impression presented by reenacting groups, so the organization will create descriptions of "Established Impressions" to facilitate signing up for events.
8. No member may use the organization's name for any purpose without the approval of the organization's leadership.

Alcohol and Drug Policy:

1. The consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited at all public events and functions during the time the event is officially open to the public. The use or possession of illegal drugs at organization events is prohibited. Any member who violates this policy shall immediately cease to be a member of the organization and shall be asked to leave the assemblage immediately.

Amendments:

1. These By-Laws may be amended at the Annual Meeting by a majority vote of the unit membership.

Dissolution of the Organization:

Section A. Upon the dissolution of the Corporation, or the terminating of its activities, the assets of the Corporation remaining after the payment of all liabilities shall be distributed exclusively for such purposes as shall then qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or as a charitable, religious, eleemosynary, benevolent or educational corporation within the meaning of Title 13 B of the Maine Revised Statutes, as amended.

Section B. No part of the assets of the Corporation shall inure to the benefit of any member or director of the Corporation.