

**BYLAWS OF THE
AMERICAN COACH CHAPTER
OF FMCA**

ARTICLE I – CHAPTER NAME

The name of this not-for-profit organization shall be the American Coach Chapter of the Family Motor Coach Association, Inc., hereinafter referred to as Chapter and FMCA.

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 member coaches.
2. **AREA/SCOPE:** This Chapter shall be authorized to function in the FMCA’s International Area with a mutual interest in a Fleetwood/American Coach Motor Home.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERS

1. **ELIGIBILITY:** To be eligible for and to maintain membership in the Chapter, a person must own at least 1/3 of an FMCA-approved qualifying coach, be in good standing with FMCA, and meet the dues requirement and provisions set forth in the Bylaws of this Chapter.

Membership in this Chapter shall be open to any family unit or individual regardless of race, age, gender, national origin, religion, marital status or disability.

2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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 motor home may be used interchangeably.
6. The term “Qualifying Motor Coach” for the purpose of membership in this Chapter shall be defined as “American Heritage, American Eagle, American Dream, American Tradition, American Patriot, American Allegiance and Fleetwood Limited.”
7. Emeritus members shall be those persons who have been prior owners and past members of ACC, previously owning an eligible motor coach. Emeritus members shall not be entitled to vote or hold office in the Association but shall be entitled to participate in all other activities, rallies and meetings of the ACC. Emeritus members must also be members in good standing of FMCA.

8. DUES AND FEES:

A. ANNUAL DUES: Annual payment of Chapter and National dues enables persons to become active members and entitled to all rights and privileges of the Chapter and FMCA. The annual dues for membership in the Chapter shall be an amount as the membership shall establish.

B. RENEWAL: Renewal dues from Chapter members become due and payable January 1st of each calendar year.

C. INITIAL APPLICATION: Application for new membership shall be accompanied by payment of annual Chapter and National dues (unless already an FMCA member). If an initial application is accepted after September 30th, the dues shall be regarded as covering the rest of the current year and 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 30 days after becoming due shall be considered delinquent; after 90 days membership is cancelled.

ARTICLE IV – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Membership shall elect a board of directors which will consist of three area directors: Eastern Area Director, Central Area Director and Western Area Director. The Chapter Board of Directors shall designate these areas. In addition to the area directors, the membership shall elect a National Director and an Alternate National Director who will represent the chapter in all chapter business with the FMCA. The National Director and the Alternate National Director shall have only one vote between them in any and all board matters.

2. The Immediate Past President shall be a member of the board and will have one vote on all chapter business. The Immediate Past President shall not be subject to any board election.

3. TERMS OF AREA DIRECTORS: Area Directors shall be elected for a two year term and shall be limited to two consecutive terms.

4. CHAPTER OFFICERS: The chapter officers shall be a member of the board of directors. The Chapter President will serve as president of the board.

5. BOARD OF DIRECTORS DUTIES: The board of directors shall set direction and establish all chapter policy and comply with FMCA directives and policy.

6. Quorum: A quorum for all board business shall be a simple majority of the board.

ARTICLE V – OFFICERS

1. CHAPTER OFFICERS: The membership shall elect chapter officers who shall consist of a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a National Director and an Alternate National Director.

2. DUTIES OF OFFICERS: The duties of elected officers shall be as defined in the Member and Volunteer Handbook.

3. TERMS OF OFFICE: The officers of this Chapter shall be elected and serve no more than two consecutive terms of two years each or until their successors are elected.

4. **VACANCY OF OFFICE:** The nominating committee shall nominate candidates to fill any vacancies which occur in an elected office. There will be a vote by the General Membership, either by mail ballot or at the next regularly scheduled meeting, to serve the remainder of the term of the office vacated. During the interim period of the officer vacating his/her office and an election, a member of the Board will assume the duties of the vacated office until a new officer is elected.

5. **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 national director or alternate national director in only one chapter.

B. Any member in good standing may be nominated from the floor for any elective office.

C. Only Full Members, Full Lifetime Members, Life Members, or Honorary Members who have advanced from one of these classes have the right to hold office in this Chapter.

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

6. **EXECUTIVE BOARD:**

A. The President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Chapter shall constitute the Executive Board.

B. The Executive Board shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Chapter between its business meetings. The Executive Board Committee shall be subject to the orders of the Chapter board of directors, and none of its acts shall be in conflict with the Chapter or FMCA.

ARTICLE VI – COMMITTEES

1. **APPOINTMENT:** Committee members and Chairpersons (except Nominating Committee) shall be appointed by the President.

2. **DUTIES:** All committees shall function within the policies of the Chapter and, with the exception of the Nominating Committee, under the direction of the President. Financial reports, vouchers, and monies due the Chapter shall be submitted on a timely basis.

3. **QUORUM:** A Committee quorum shall be a simple majority of the committee.

ARTICLE VII – CHAPTER ADMINISTRATION

1. **AUTHORITY:** This Chapter shall be democratically self-governed, deriving its existence and authority from the consent of its membership assembled in meeting or, in certain instances, by mail vote on stated propositions.

2. **ORGAIZATIONAL YEAR:** The fiscal and membership year of the Chapter shall commence on January 1st and end on December 31st.

3. CHAPTER MEETINGS:

A. TYPES: 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 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

C. ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Once every two years one of the business meetings shall be a meeting at which an election is held to choose officers for the next two years. The voting general membership is to elect Chapter officers, including a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, National Director, Alternate National Director, Eastern Area Director, Central Area Director, and Western Area Director.

D. QUORUM: A quorum for the transaction of business at any duly-called Chapter meeting is 25 percent (25%) of the Chapter family unit membership or 15 family unit members, whichever is less.

E. VOTING: Except as specified elsewhere in these Bylaws, a simple majority vote of members in good standing and voting shall be required to approve or disapprove any matter.

The Chapter has established that voting will be one vote per family unit.

Balloting by mail, email or other electronic means may be undertaken when a proposed matter is voted to be of such importance or urgency that a total membership vote is advisable. In such cases, voting on the proposed matter at a meeting will not be allowed.

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 not inconsistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of FMCA and the Bylaws of this Chapter.

4. MAINTAINING AFFILIATION: This Chapter must maintain a minimum of 15 family unit members.

The Chapter Secretary shall furnish to the National Office of FMCA, no later than the last week in December, a membership list, a list of chapter officers, and assurance that two business meetings were 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 FMCA Constitution, Bylaws and Member and Volunteer Handbook.

ARTICLE VIII – ELECTIONS

1. NOMINATING COMMITTEE COMPOSITION:

A. The Nominating Committee shall consist of not less than three Chapter members in good standing, nominated and elected every other year by the Chapter membership.

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, National Director, Alternate National Director, Eastern Area Director, Central Area Director and Western Area Director for the new year 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 for appointment by the Executive Board to fill vacancies which occur in elected Chapter offices.

ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

- 1. **FMCA NATIONAL BYLAW AND MEMBER AND VOLUNTEER HANDBOOK:** Policy and Procedures amendments applicable to chapter operations are not subject to a vote by the chapter membership.
- 2. **AMENDING PROCEDURE:** These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3rds) affirmative vote of the members present and voting at a duly called meeting, providing that prior notice of at least thirty (30) days has been given of the proposition(s) to amend.

Any member of the Chapter may propose amendments to the Bylaws.

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 International National Area Vice President.

ARTICLE X – LIQUIDATION AND DISSOLUTION

In the event of dissolution of this Chapter of FMCA, by majority vote of the Chapter, all of the remaining assets of the Chapter shall be contributed to the purpose(s) for which the Chapter is organized, or to a qualified non-profit charity or charities.

ARTICLE XI – STANDING RULES

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

Effective May 26, 2018