

BYLAWS  
OF  
THE MONTANA STATE OLD-TIME FIDDLERS' ASSOCIATION

APPROVED 12/12/2015

ARTICLE 1: NAME AND MISSION STATEMENT

SECTION 1.1. Name of Organization: The name of this non-profit organization shall be The Montana State Old-time Fiddlers' Association, hereinafter referred to as "MSOTFA."

SECTION 1.2. Mission Statement: The mission of this organization shall be the preservation and performance of traditional old-time acoustic fiddle music throughout Montana.

SECTION 1.3. Districts: MSOTFA shall be divided into as many geographical districts as shall best serve the interests of the organization. Each district shall have its own bylaws, fashioned after the MSOTFA bylaws, which may supplement the MSOTFA bylaws, but which may not, in any way, contradict them. Each district shall elect its own officers, local directors, and one State director.

ARTICLE 2: ANNUAL MEETING

SECTION 2.1. Annual Meeting: The MSOTFA annual meeting shall be held at a time and place specified by the State Board of Directors at the spring board meeting.

ARTICLE 3: EVENTS

SECTION 3.1: Annual Contest: MSOTFA shall hold a contest each year, to be called "The Montana State Fiddle Contest." This contest shall be organized by the State Board of Directors and State officers.

SECTION 3.2. Fiddle Camp: MSOTFA shall hold an instructional camp each year, to be called "The Montana State Fiddle Camp." This camp shall be organized and administered by the State Board of Directors and State officers.

SECTION 3.3. Other Events: MSOTFA may sponsor, promote, and/or assist other musical events which may, at the discretion of the State Board of Directors, benefit MSOTFA and/or further its mission.

## ARTICLE 4: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION 4.1. Number and Qualifications: One representative elected by each district and the State officers shall constitute the MSOTFA State Board of Directors.

SECTION 4.2. Term of Office: The State Directors shall be elected for one year and may serve consecutive terms. The outgoing State President may, at the discretion of the State Board, serve as a State Director-at-Large for a period of two years after his term as President has expired.

SECTION 4.3. Duties and Powers: The Board of Directors shall conduct the affairs and business of MSOTFA.

Each year, the Board of Directors shall appoint a Contest Chairperson, who will organize and direct the annual Montana State Fiddle Contest. The Contest Chairperson shall provide the Board with a financial report of each year's contest at the following fall Board meeting.

Each year, the Board of Directors shall appoint a director for the Montana State Fiddle Camp, who will organize and conduct the camp according to the wishes of the Board. The Fiddle Camp director shall provide the Board with a financial report for each year's Fiddle Camp at the following fall Board meeting.

SECTION 4.4. Meetings: The MSOTFA State Board shall meet semiannually, in the spring and fall, to be announced at least thirty days in advance. Other meetings of the Board shall be held at such times and places as the board may from time to time determine.

Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by any three Board members, or by the State President, upon giving one week's notice to all Board members of the time, place, and the purpose of the meeting.

Informal Action by Directors: Any action requiring advice or consent of the Board of Directors may be taken without a formal meeting, by a majority vote, utilizing email and/or telephone, at the discretion of the State President.

SECTION 4.5. Quorum: At any meeting of the State Board of Directors, the presence of a majority of the Board shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

SECTION 4.6. Compensation: There shall be no compensation paid to any member of the State Board of Directors. However, each member shall be reimbursed for expenses to attend Board meetings as determined by the Board at each meeting.

SECTION 4.7. Vacancies: Any vacancy occurring in the State Board of Directors shall be filled promptly by the respective district.

SECTION 4.8. Resignation: Any Director choosing to resign shall notify his District President and the State President in writing.

SECTION 4.9. Bylaw Review: The State Board of Directors review the MSOTFA bylaws annually at the spring regular meeting, for the purpose of incorporating changes and amendments adopted at the previous fall Board meeting and proposing changes and amendments for affirmation at the following fall meeting. Bylaws shall be posted on the MSOTFA web site.

## ARTICLE 5: OFFICERS.

SECTION 5.1. Officers and Qualifications: The MSOTFA officers shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. A member may not hold more than one State office at a time, with the exception of Secretary and Treasurer, which may be held by one person. The Secretary and Treasurer shall be appointed by the President. Each officer shall serve for a two-year term. The President and Vice-President must be MSOTFA playing members; the Secretary and Treasurer may be associate members and shall be allowed Board voting privileges. MSOTFA officers must be state resident members, with dues paid at least 60 days prior to taking office.

SECTION 5.2. Elections: All MSOTFA officers, except the Secretary and Treasurer, shall be elected by secret ballot at the annual membership meeting. Each nominee must be present at the meeting to accept the nomination.

SECTION 5.3. Term of office: All officers shall hold office for two years. They may be re-elected to serve additional two-year terms. The President and Vice-President shall take office the day after the annual membership meeting. The Secretary and Treasurer's books shall be turned over to the new Secretary and Treasurer within 30 days after the annual membership meeting. The Treasurer-elect shall take office at the beginning of the fiscal year following the election.

SECTION 5.4. Vacancies: Any vacancy occurring in the office of President or Vice-President shall be filled promptly by a majority vote of the State Board of Directors at a special meeting.

SECTION 5.5. Removal of an Officer: Any State officer may be removed from office at any time by a majority vote of no confidence by the State Board of Directors at a special Board meeting.

SECTION 5.6. Compensation: Compensation for State officers shall be established by the Board of Directors at the fall Directors' meeting.

SECTION 5.7. Duties of the President: The MSOTFA President shall preside at all business meetings and all Board of Directors meetings of the organization, and serve as

goodwill ambassador to functions and events which promote old-time fiddling in Montana. He or she shall serve MSOTFA and perform such duties as from time to time may be assigned by the State Board of Directors. The President may designate any number of persons to help with these duties.

SECTION 5.8. Duties of the Vice-President: In the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President and, when so acting, shall have all the powers of, and be subject to all the restrictions on, the President.

SECTION 5.9. Duties of the Secretary-Treasurer: The Secretary shall:

- A. Keep the minutes of all MSOTFA meetings.
- B. Keep a register of the mailing address of each playing member and each associate member.

The Treasurer shall:

- A. Pay bills and handle all MSOTFA correspondence.
- B. Have charge and custody of, and be responsible for, all MSOTFA funds.
- C. Receive and give receipts for monies due and payable to MSOTFA from any source and deposit all such monies in the name of MSOTFA in such banks as shall be selected by the State Board of Directors
- D. Keep accurate account books of MSOTFA transactions, which shall be the property of MSOTFA, and shall be subject at all times to inspection and control of the State Board of Directors
- E. Perform all duties incident to the office of Secretary-Treasurer and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the President or the State Board of Directors. If the position of Secretary-Treasurer is held by one person, that person may cast only one vote at MSOTFA meetings.

SECTION 5.10. Funds: All MSOTFA funds are to be deposited into a checking and/or savings account. All State officers shall sign the bank signature cards. The Secretary-Treasurer's and the President's (or Vice-President's) signatures are required on all checks written on the MSOTFA checking account and on any withdrawal of funds from savings. The Secretary-Treasurer is authorized to meet routine expenditures at the discretion of the State Board of Directors.

SECTION 5.11. Annual Audit: The records of the MSOTFA Secretary-Treasurer shall be audited by a three-member auditing committee, appointed from the membership-at-large by the State President. This committee shall audit the books prior to the annual membership meeting and shall report its findings at the annual membership meeting. Neither State officers nor directors may serve on the Auditing Committee.

## ARTICLE 6: MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 6.1. Playing Members: Playing members are defined as follows:

- A. FIDDLER: Any person who plays the fiddle and participates in old-time fiddling as outlined in the MSOTFA mission statement and who is a legal resident of Montana.
- B. ACCOMPANIST: Any person who accompanies fiddlers and participates in events where old-time acoustic fiddle music is furnished for entertainment.
- C. FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: Two or more playing members of one family, including children under the age of 18 who are living at home.
- D. NON-RESIDENT: Any fiddler or accompanist, as outlined above, who is a paid member and lives out of Montana.

SECTION 6.2. Associate Members: An associate member is any member who is not a playing member.

## ARTICLE 7: VOTING PRIVILEGES

SECTION 7.1. Playing Members: Playing members, who have paid current dues, are eligible to vote at all membership meetings. A playing member's spouse is also eligible to vote. A Family Membership allows two votes.

SECTION 7.2. Associate Members: Associate members are not eligible to vote.

SECTION 7.3. Proxy Voting: Proxy voting is not allowed in any MSOTFA membership meeting.

## ARTICLE 8: DUES

SECTION 8.1. Annual Dues: Membership dues are due and payable to the District Secretaries on January 1 of each year. Members whose dues are not paid by January 31 shall be considered delinquent and shall lose membership privileges until delinquent dues are paid. The amount of annual dues shall be determined by the State Board of Directors. Districts are responsible for dues collection and notification of delinquency.

SECTION 8.2. Dues Payable to State: One half of all income from dues for playing and associate members shall be turned over to the State Secretary; the other half shall remain with the districts.

SECTION 8.3. Miscellaneous: Paid-up membership does not entitle free admission to the State Contest or other MSOTFA-sponsored event.

## ARTICLE 9: NEWSLETTERS

SECTION 9.1. MSOTFA newsletters shall be sent to all paid-up playing and associate members.

## ARTICLE 10: DISTRICT EVENTS

SECTION 10.1. Events: Jam sessions and other musical events may be held by any District as often as the District desires. District-sponsored events must be compatible with the MSOTFA Mission Statement.

SECTION 10.2. Proceeds; A percentage of net proceeds from District events shall be sent to MSOTFA, to be determined by the State Board. Each district shall be allowed to keep all proceeds from one event per year.

## ARTICLE 11: OTHER INCOME

SECTION 11.1. Benefit Fund Raisers: All net proceeds from benefit fund raisers shall be turned over to the beneficiary. Such proceeds should be deposited in the District treasury and given to the beneficiary by check, for accounting purposes.

SECTION 11.2. Sales: All proceeds from the sale of MSOTFA recordings, T-shirts, decals, or other MSOTFA merchandise shall be turned over to the MSOTFA Treasurer.

## ARTICLE 12: FISCAL YEAR

SECTION 12.1. Fiscal Year: The MSOTFA fiscal year shall be from January 1 through December 31.

## ARTICLE 13: HALL OF FAME

SECTION 13.1. Executive Committee: The MSOTFA Executive Committee shall be comprised of past MSOTFA Presidents and spouses of deceased past Presidents.

SECTION 13.2. Selection of Inductees: The MSOTFA Board of Directors shall solicit nominations for the Hall of Fame from the districts, to be reviewed at the spring Board meeting. Nominees may be living or deceased. The Board may add nominees as it sees fit. The Board shall condense and approve a final list to be turned over to the Hall of Fame Executive Committee for final selection.

SECTION 13.3. Meetings: The Hall of Fame Executive Committee shall meet each year prior to the induction presentation for the purpose of selecting new Hall of Fame inductees from the list provided per Section 13.2, and also to conduct other business pertinent to the MSOTFA Hall of Fame. At this meeting, a chairperson shall be elected for the coming year.

SECTION 13.4. Term of Office: Any member of the Hall of Fame Executive Committee may serve as long as he or she wishes to participate.

SECTION 13.5. Induction: Hall of Fame inductees shall receive their honors at an awards ceremony, at a time and place designated by the MSOTFA Board of Directors.

#### ARTICLE 15: DISSOLUTION

SECTION 15.1.: In the event that MSOTFA shall cease to exist, all remaining MSOTFA funds and assets shall be disbursed to one or more charitable or non-profit organizations chosen by the MSOTFA Board of Directors, consistent with the MSOTFA mission statement. If a district disbands, all the assets of that district shall be turned over to MSOTFA. The MSOTFA Board of Directors shall keep or disburse such assets in a manner consistent with the MSOTFA mission statement.

#### ARTICLE 16: BYLAW CHANGES

SECTION 16.1.: At Annual Membership Meeting. Proposed bylaw amendments may be approved by a majority of the members at the annual membership meeting. The MSOTFA President shall give notice to the members of the membership meeting in writing, at least thirty days prior to the meeting. The notice must state that the purpose or one of the purposes of the meeting is to consider the proposed amendment(s) and must contain or be accompanied by a copy or summary of the amendment(s).

SECTION 16.2.: Written ballot. At the State Board's discretion, proposed bylaw amendments may be submitted to the members for approval by written ballot. The material soliciting the approval must contain or be accompanied by a copy or summary of the amendment(s). The board must allow at least thirty days before counting and acting on ballots returned.

#### AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS

##### Amendment #1 – Approved by mail ballot 2/5/2016

Change Section 5.3 to the following: “SECTION 5.3. Term of office: All officers shall hold office for two years. They may be re-elected to serve additional two-year terms. The President and Vice-President shall take office the day after the annual membership meeting. The Secretary and Treasurer's books shall be turned over when they take office at the beginning of the fiscal year following the election.”

##### Amendment #2 – Approved by mail ballot 2/5/2016

Change Section 9.1 to the following: “SECTION 9.1. A minimum of two MSOTFA newsletters shall be sent to all paid-up playing and associate members each year.”