

REVISED BY-LAWS
of

NORTH VALLEY RESCUE ASSOCIATION, INC.

ARTICLE I

Name

SECTION 1: The name of this non-profit corporation shall be North Valley Rescue Association, Inc.

ARTICLE II

Purpose

SECTION 1: The general purpose of this Association shall be to aid, and to endeavor to assist in the saving of life and property in Flathead County, Montana, or elsewhere as an emergency arises. In addition, the plan of operation of the aforesaid Association shall be consistent with the Articles of Incorporation.

ARTICLE III

Meetings

SECTION 1: The annual meeting shall be held at the Office of Incorporation of the association.

SECTION 2: The annual meeting shall be held on the first (1st) Tuesday of January of each year. Failure to hold the annual meeting at the designated time shall not result in forfeiture, or dissolution of the corporation.

SECTION 3: Meeting of members shall be held on the first (1st) Tuesday of each month at such a place designated by a vote of membership for ensuing month, or the second (2nd) Tuesday if the first (1st) falls within a holiday. Training meetings shall be held on the third (3rd) Tuesday of every month, or the fourth (4th) Tuesday if first falls on a holiday, unless changed by the Training Officer

SECTION 4: Quorum

- a) A quorum shall be constituted of ten percent (10%) of total voting membership.
- b) The members present at a duly organized meeting may continue to do business until adjournment, notwithstanding the withdrawal of enough members to leave less than a quorum.
- c) A quorum for a Board of Directors meeting shall consist of at least six (6) members or majority of the board.

SECTION 5:

Special Meetings

- a) Special meetings of the members may be called by the President or the Board of Directors.
- b) Notice of special meetings shall not be less than two (2), or more than ten (10) days by telephone.
- c) Board of Directors meetings can be called at any time by the President or three (3) members of the Board.

ARTICLE IV

Membership

SECTION 1:

- a) Be eighteen (18) years of age.
- b) All members must read and understand By-laws. All members must also pledge the Oath of Membership.
- c) All members shall abstain from the use of alcohol and/or dangerous drugs while on actual missions or official duties.
- d) First Aid training, CPR, or American Heart is mandatory within one (1) year and is to be kept current for all active members.

- e) All active new members will have a one (1) year probationary period; at the end of which, the Board of Directors shall determine whether or not to retain said member.
- f) Any member convicted of a felony will be removed from the membership; a person having such a conviction will not be eligible for membership until their sentence is completed. [Final approval January 7, 1997]

SECTION 2:

- a) Any member may be removed by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.
- b) Membership shall be limited to all qualified, active voting members.
- c) Membership dues shall be set annually at the annual meeting.
- d) All active members must attend at least three (3) regular monthly-business meetings annually; and must attend at least three (3) training meetings, or twelve (12) hours of training annually (rescue missions inclusive) and have paid their annual membership dues.

SECTION 1:

Elections of Officers

- a) Nominations of officers shall be on the first (1st) Tuesday of November.
- b) Election of officers shall be on the first (1st) Tuesday of December.
- c) Installation of officers shall be on the first (1st) Tuesday of January at the conclusion of regular business for the annual meeting and they shall preside over the next regular meeting.
- d) In order to vote on election night, or to be nominated or elected to an office, a member must be in full compliance with Section 2 d (Membership) above.
- e) "Life Members", by virtue of their designation, shall possess inherent, life-long voting eligibility.
- f) Officers of other search & rescue organizations shall not be eligible to hold any positions of office in North Valley Rescue Association.

SECTION 2:

- a) The officers of the Association shall be the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and the Board of Directors.
- b) The President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Search Coordinator shall each serve a one (1) year term in office.
- c) The Board of Directors shall consist of not more than ten (10) members.
 - 1) All elected officers of the Association.
 - 2) The immediate Past President for one (1) year term.
 - 3) The Sheriff of Flathead County or his designee.
 - 4) Five (5) elected Directors to serve one (1), two (2), and three (3) year terms.
 - 5) A Chaplain will be appointed by the President and shall be an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE V

Address

The address of the corporation's initial registered office is:

North Valley Rescue Association
Box 2041
Columbia Falls, Montana 59912

ARTICLE VI

Duties of Officers and Directors

SECTION 1:

It shall be the duty of the President, as well as that of the Board of Directors, to preside at all meetings of the Association, to exercise general executive control over the affairs of said Association, and to call special meetings of the Association and to perform all other duties pertaining to such office. He shall appoint all committees, as well as any Search Coordinators and Training Officers.

- SECTION 2: It shall be the duty of the Vice President to assist the President when called upon to do so, and in the absence shall be vested with the powers and duties of the President.
- SECTION 3: It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep a record of all meetings, to send all notices, and to maintain custody of all books, papers, records, and other property; with the exception of money, and to perform any other ordinary duty the President deems fit. (S)he shall also keep and maintain current records of all attendance, training, membership status, statistics and pertinent correspondence.
- SECTION 4: It is the duty of the Treasurer to keep full and complete accounts of all receipts and disbursements of the Association in books belonging to the Association and to deposit all monies in a place designated by the active members and Board of Directors. All checks shall be signed by any two (2) of the following officers: President, Vice President, Secretary and/or Treasurer. The Treasurer is charged with the responsibility of keeping a full accounting of all monies received and expended, and to render to the active members, Board of Directors, or the President, when required a true and correct account of any and all transactions, and to furnish a written report of monthly transactions.
- SECTION 5: The business administration of the Association shall be vested in and exercised by the Board of Directors. It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to audit the books of the Association annually, and it shall report on such an audit at the next meeting. The Board of Directors shall have the power to prosecute the purposes of this Association as set forth in the Articles of Incorporation as it sees fit, and to carry on in connection therewith any related activity necessary and proper, or desirable in the attainment of such rules and regulations not inconsistent with the laws of the State of Montana. Provided, however, it is expressly understood that the Board of Directors may not create any personal indebtedness of any member or members whomsoever, nor shall it levy any assessments upon the members. The remaining members of the Board may fill vacancies in the membership of the Board of Directors for the unexpired term.
- SECTION 6: The Sheriff of Flathead County as Chief Coordinator is to coordinate the activities of the Sheriff's office with the Association during actual operation. It is his duty to immediately notify the proper officers of the Association in situations that require their assistance. It is his further duty to coordinate all search and rescue missions with the designated Association representative. It is the duty of all officers and members of the Association to lend full cooperation and support to the Sheriff's office.

SECTION 7: It is the duty of the Association Search Coordinator to be the contact person between the Sheriff's office and the Association for all missions. He will be fully responsible for this Association while on missions and for the coordination between this Association and other agencies on any mission. He will be responsible for setting forth a set of standard operating procedures and for an accurate critique of all missions.

SECTION 8: Any officer, other than an elected member of the Board of Directors, who is absent for three (3) consecutive meetings unless expressly excused by the Board of Directors will be relieved of all duties of said office and be replaced by the Board of Directors, for remainder of that term in office.

ARTICLE VII

Equipment

SECTION 1: The Board of Directors under the direction of a majority vote of the active members at a regular meeting is empowered to make any and all purchases necessary to the operation and maintenance of the Association.

SECTION 2: The property of the Association shall be maintained in a state of readiness, and shall not be used without the authorization or under the direction of the President and/or Search Coordinator of the Association. All equipment shall be logged in and out at the time of its use, and to include by whose authorization. All equipment will be operated by or under the direction of active members only.

SECTION 3: All Association-owned equipped and supplies, not issued on a quasi-permanent basis, will be returned to the Association headquarters after each mission.

SECTION 4: Annually in April, an inventory will be conducted by two (2) officers, and three (3) members (to be appointed by the President) of all Association-owned equipment and supplies; noting its' location, state of readiness, condition, quantity, etc., and to identify surplus equipment, if any, and the determination for the need for disposal thereof.

SECTION 5: No Association equipment or structures will be used for personal use or gain unless authorized by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VIII

Amendments

SECTION 1: These By-laws may be amended at any annual meeting of the Association by a vote of two-thirds (2/3rds) of the members in attendance at such meeting, or at any special meeting duly called for this purpose, upon a notice of at least ten (10) days given to each member in good standing.

ARTICLE IX

SECTION 1: All meetings shall be governed according to Roberts Rules of Order.

Revised	Section	Date	Revision
Added Header with Rev, page #, title. Added Rev Block, added "unless authorized by the Board of Directors"	Art. VII Sect.5	2/7/15	A

2/9/2019

NORTH VALLEY RESCUE ASSOCIATION

OBLIGATION OF MEMBERSHIP

OATH

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I, (state your name), do solemnly and sincerely pledge
 that I take this obligation freely,
 without reservation or evasion,
 to uphold and abide by
 the rules and by-laws of this organization,
 to comply with the will of the majority,
 and to faithfully discharge
 the duties with which I am entrusted.

I affirm that I will be
 respectful in word and deed to all.
 That I will conduct myself
 in an honest and honourable manner,
 to live by example
 and obey the Laws of The Land.

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