

**BYLAWS OF  
THE ROOSEVELT MILITARY ACADEMY  
ROUGH RIDER ASSOCIATION, INC**



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## ARTICLE I - THE ASSOCIATION

**Section 1 - The Name.** The name of this Association shall be THE ROOSEVELT MILITARY ACADEMY ROUGH RIDER ASSOCIATION, INC. The Association is incorporated in the state of Florida.

**Section 2 - The Purpose.** The purpose of the Rough Rider Association shall be to establish and promote on-going communication and organizational structure for the benefit of alumni, faculty, family members and friends who were connected with Roosevelt Military Academy.

**Section 3 - The Objectives.** The objectives of the RMA Rough Rider Association shall be to:

- promote alumni friendship
- develop and maintain an alumni network
- manage and distribute the
  - RMA Roster
  - Rough Rider Newsletter
  - Association Web Site
- co-ordinate reunion planning
- maintain historical archives and memorabilia of the Academy

**Section 4 - The General Powers.** The Rough Rider Association shall have full power and authority to do all acts that are in furtherance of its purpose. Specifically, but not by way of limitation, the Association shall have full power and authority to collect Association dues as well as to receive, hold and disburse funds and property from gifts, bequests and otherwise for the general purposes of the Association.

**Section 5 - The Bylaws.** The Rough Rider Association shall operate in accordance with the Bylaws and all amendments thereto, as adopted by the membership. To the extent that any provisions of the Association's policies and procedures are inconsistent with any provisions of the Association's Bylaws, provisions of the Bylaws shall prevail.

### **Section 6 - The Academy.**

After the First World War, the buildings of the William and Vashti College in Aledo, IL stood empty. The decreased enrollment and lack of finances had taken its toll. For four years, the campus was unused except that the administration building was used by the Aledo High School while North Side School was under construction. Then,

in 1924, the buildings were taken over by a military school, and were occupied by that institution for nearly fifty years.

Fire had destroyed the buildings of the Kansas Military Academy at Oswego, Kansas, in March 1924, and Col. Clyde R. Terry, its owner, needed a place to relocate. He had heard of the vacant campus at Aledo and made arrangements to transfer from Kansas to Illinois. On March 16, 1924, Col. Terry, five teachers, and forty-four cadets arrived on the train in Aledo, and Illinois Military School had begun. In 1931 the cadets chose the new name, Roosevelt Military Academy, in memory and honor of Theodore Roosevelt.

## ARTICLE II - THE MEMBERS

**Section 1 - Membership.** All cadet alumni; faculty; the Aledo, IL business community; and friends and families of cadet alumni and faculty members shall be eligible for membership in the classifications as outlined in this Article. Memberships are based on a calendar year and dues will be set by a vote of the Board of Directors.

**Section 2 - Full Membership.** Any former cadet or faculty who attended or taught at Roosevelt Military Academy shall be eligible for Full Membership in the Association. Lifetime members are full members who have chosen to pay a one-time fee rather than an annual fee.

**Section 3 - Associate Membership.** Any former cadets or faculty who attended or taught at Roosevelt Military Academy, or Aledo friends or family members of an alumni or faculty member shall be eligible for Associate Membership in the Association but shall not have the benefits of full membership in the Association.

**Section 4 - Membership Benefits and Privileges.** The benefits and privileges of each membership classification are as shown below:

Membership Classification	Hold elected office	Vote	By Laws	Newsletter	RMA Roster
Full (including Lifetime)	Yes	Yes	Mail or Email	Mail or Email	Mail or Email
Associate	No	Yes	Email only	Email only	Email only

**Section 5 - Beneficiary Clause.** A cadet member of the Rough Rider Association may designate a family member to assume his membership in the Association upon his

death. This membership would be at the Associate Member level and would expire at the end of the current calendar year. The benefactor could renew the membership at the Associate Member level by continuing to pay the annual dues required. Life members may also designate a family member to assume his membership with no additional fees.

**Section 6 - Suspension/Expulsion from Membership.** The Board of Directors of the Association shall deal with unacceptable behavior involving the Association or its activities.

**Section 7 - Resignation from Membership.** Any member of the Association may resign membership in the Association by sending a notice of resignation to the Secretary of the Association. Failure to pay Association dues will be deemed a voluntary resignation.

### **ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

**Section 1 - Biennial Reunion Meeting.** The regular meeting of the Association shall be held every two years at a time and location as determined by the Board of Directors and shall be known as the biennial reunion, and shall be for the purpose of electing officers, determining the outcome of ballot voting on Bylaw amendments, receiving reports of officers and committees, and for any other business that may arise.

**Section 2 - Special Meetings.** Special meetings may be called by the President or by the Board of Directors upon the written request of 20 members of the Association. The purpose of the meeting shall be stated in the call. Except in cases of emergency, at least 30 days' notice shall be given.

**Section 3 – Quorum.** The voting members of the Association who are present at the membership meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

**Section 4 – Absentee Voting.** Members not able to attend meetings may vote by mail ballot in accordance with Section 4, Article VII.

### **ARTICLE IV - EXECUTIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY**

#### **Section 1 - Board of Directors.**

The executive and administrative authority of the Rough Rider Association shall be vested with the Board of Directors, which shall consist of the elected officers and the Immediate Past President. The Board shall manage the affairs of the Association. All

power and authority exercised by any member of the Board shall be in accordance with the Association's bylaws. The Board is authorized to meet by telephone conference or through other electronic communication media so long as all the members may simultaneously hear each other and participate during the meeting and shall be further authorized to vote by mail, fax, or e-mail for such matters that need to be handled between meetings.

The officers of the Association shall be the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and the Treasurer, each of whom shall be elected by the voting members to serve a two-year term or until their successors are elected.

**Section 2 - The President.** The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Association, shall oversee all Association activities and appoint all committee chairmen, as provided in the Association's bylaws. The President shall preside at the membership meetings and shall make a report as to the state of the Association.

**Section 3 - The Vice President.** The Vice-President shall assist the President and assume the duties and responsibilities of the President in the absence or inability of the President to carry out the duties and responsibilities of that office. The Vice-President will perform other duties as assigned by the President.

**Section 4 - The Secretary.** The Secretary shall be the Chief Recording Officer of the Association, shall keep the minutes, and shall manage communications and records of the Association. The Secretary shall assume the responsibilities of the Vice-President in the absence, or inability of the Vice-President to carry out the duties and responsibilities of that office until the next election.

**Section 5 - The Treasurer.** The Treasurer shall be the Chief Financial Officer of the Association and shall collect, receive and have care and custody of all funds and securities of the Association. The Treasurer shall have responsibility, under the direction of the President, for managing the financial affairs of the Association in accordance with the Association Bylaws and shall make an annual report to the President as to the financial condition of the Association. The Treasurer shall assume the responsibilities of the Secretary in the absence or inability of the Secretary to carry out the duties and responsibilities of that office until the next election.

**Section 6 - Succession of Officers.** In the event of a vacancy in the office of any elected Officer, excepting the President who will be succeeded by the Vice-President, the provisions of Article IV, Sections 3, 4, and 5 shall apply.

## ARTICLE V. THE FINANCES

**Section 1 - The Funds.** The funds of the Association shall be obtained by means of dues and contributions as provided for in the Association's bylaws, and placed in the

Association's operating fund. The Treasurer of the Association shall collect all dues and contributions. The Board of Directors shall establish the amount of such dues.

**Section 2 - The Budget.** The Treasurer of the Association shall establish an annual budget for the Association's operations. The Board of Directors shall set forth written procedures for the preparation, review and approval of an annual budget and for the management and control of expenses.

**Section 3 - Annual Financial Reporting.** The Treasurer of the Association shall submit to the President of the Association an annual report on the financial condition of the Association. Such report shall include the appropriate financial statements, including but not limited to the statement of revenues and expenses, the statement of fund balance, the statement of changes in fund balance, and other appropriate financial statements. The complete annual report on the financial condition of the Association shall be published in the Rough Rider Newsletter and/or the Association Web Site.

## **ARTICLE VI - THE ASSOCIATION'S INSIGNIA AND HERALDRY**

**Section 1 - The Logo.** The Theodore Roosevelt logo will be the official logo of the RMA Rough Rider Association.

**Section 2 - The Colors.** The colors of the Association shall be scarlet and gray.

**Section 3 - Association Media.** The Association shall publish and distribute a newsletter for and about the Association, the members, and matters of importance to them. The newsletter shall be called the Rough Rider Newsletter. Other Association media include the RMA Rough Rider Association Web Site, and the RMA Roster (a listing of cadets, faculty, and friends of RMA).

## **ARTICLE VII: THE ELECTION COMMITTEE**

**Section 1 – Appointment.** At least six months prior to each biennial reunion the President of the Association, with the approval of the Board of Directors, shall appoint an Election Committee.

**Section 2 – Duties.** It shall be the duty of the Election Committee to solicit, evaluate, and announce candidates to stand for election for the offices to be filled at the membership meeting held at the biennial reunion. The Committee shall also verify the candidates' willingness to serve if elected, present a recommended slate of candidates to the membership at the reunion, and oversee the election process.

**Section 3 - Election Voting.** Elections shall be by ballot of the voting members of the Association who are present at the biennial reunion membership meeting. The candidate who receives a plurality of the votes cast for each position shall be declared elected.

**Section 4 – Absentee Voting.** Members unable to attend the reunion business meeting may request an absentee ballot from the Secretary up to 35 days prior to the date of the reunion business meeting. The Secretary shall mail out the requested absentee ballots at least 30 days prior to the reunion business meeting. Completed absentee ballots must be received by the Secretary at least 7 days prior to the meeting to be valid. The Secretary shall turn the still-sealed absentee ballots over to the Election Committee prior to the election and the valid absentee ballots will be counted at the election as if the member were present.

**Section 5: - Other Voting.** In the event of amendments to the Bylaws, the Election Committee shall have the duty of conducting the vote in accordance with Article IX.

#### **ARTICLE VIII: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Association in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the bylaws and any special rules of order the Association may adopt.

#### **ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS**

The Rough Rider Association Bylaws may be amended by a majority of the voting members of the Association who are present at the membership meeting. Amendments receiving a majority of the votes cast shall be declared adopted.

#### **ARTICLE X: DISSOLUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION**

The number of remaining cadets, faculty and friends of RMA will continue to decline over the years. When it is determined by a vote of the Association members that the organization's continuance is no longer viable, the Association will be dissolved and its assets turned over to the Mercer County Historical Society or other non-profit organization(s) in Mercer County, Illinois, as determined by the members.