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Revised 02/13/2023

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Guadalupe County Sheriff's Mounted Posse

P.O. Box 93 Seguin, TX 78156-0093

Last Updated February 2023

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

PART I

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

We, the civic-minded citizens, interested in the welfare and promotion of Guadalupe County Texas are united in the Association known as the Sheriff's Mounted Posse (GCSMP) Guadalupe County Texas and do hereby adopt this constitution for our Association.

ARTICLE 1. NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1. Name:

The name of the Association is Sheriff's Mounted Posse of Guadalupe County, Texas.

Section 2. Purpose

The Purpose of this Association is to develop and maintain a group of skilled horse persons to be activated in case of emergency wherein the citizens of Guadalupe County may be benefited.

ARTICLE II. OFFICERS

Section 1. General Membership

The officers of this association shall consist of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Director of Public Relations and 5 Board of Directors.

Section 2. Drill Team

The officers of the Drill Team shall consist of Drill Captain, Assistant Drill Captain, which may or may not be officers of the Association for the General Membership.

ARTICLE III. QUORUM

A quorum shall consist of the total membership in good standing and a simple majority of those present which will constitute a quorum that shall transact such business as may come before the membership.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall be open to all persons who meet the eligibility criteria of the Bylaws.

Section 1. Member in Good Standing

To remain a member in good standing, annual dues must be kept current and failure to do so will result in forfeiture of that members voting privilege until dues are paid. If a member does not pay his/her dues by the first of March, he/she will be dropped from the rolls. In order for a delinquent member to be reinstated, he/she must follow the same procedure as a new member or be reinstated by a majority vote of members present and in good standing and paying back dues.

Section 2. Active Member in Good Standing

Active member in good standing must attend a minimum of sixteen (16) Posse functions during the current calendar year, (new members who join after the June meeting, eight (8) Posse Functions since becoming a member), and failure to do so shall result in the forfeiture of that member's privileges to hold office. A member's office privileges may be reinstated by the Board of Directors if his/her absence has been due to extenuating circumstances. The member must submit his/her case in writing to the Board of Directors for their consideration and decision, prior to the membership meeting in which he/she wishes to be reinstated as an active member in good standing.

Section 3. Posse Functions

Posse functions are defined as any function approved by the general membership to include but not limited to meetings, clean-up days, work days, parades, playdays, excluding participation in Drill Team performances. A member is expected to work a minimum of 2 hours during workday or playday to earn a point. Multiple points will not be earned during any one function. Points must be claimed immediately.

ARTICLE V. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1. Nominations

A Nomination Committee for nomination of eligible members for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Director of Relations, and Board of Directors for the December election will consist of the Past President and four members appointed by the Board of Directors. A Nomination Committee for nomination of eligible riding members for Drill Captain and Assistant Drill Captain for the December election will consist of the past President and two riding members appointed by the Board of Directors. The committees will be appointed by the second Monday in September. The proposed slate will be presented at the October meeting. Nominees proposed by the committee will be presented at the November meeting. Nominations will be accepted from the floor of any office. Upon adjournment of the November meeting, nominations will cease and no additional nominations will be accepted.

Section 2. Election

Election of officers will be held at the December meeting. The President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Director of Public Relations, and 5 (five) directors will be elected by members in good standing. The Board of Directors shall consist of the retiring President and four elected in the same manner as the usual four. The Drill Captain and Assistant Drill Captain will be elected by only active riding members. Voting will be by written ballot of member in good standing.

Section 3. Voting by Proxy

Application for voting by proxy shall be presented to the Board of Directors at the December meeting for their review and approval. The proxy shall include, one (1) the reason for proxy and two (2) the selection of officers. In the event that there is a runoff election, the proxies will not be accepted.

ARTICLE VI. REVENUE

Revenue shall be derived annual dues, initiation fees, and snack bar revenue, playday revenue and any other such monies coming in as voted on by the membership and set forth in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE VII. AMENDMENTS

Amendments made to the Constitution or Bylaws shall be posted at one regular meeting and announced in the newsletter. A simple majority vote of the members present in good standing will be required to effect an amendment to the Constitution or By laws. A meeting must be held to conduct official business in the Association.

PART II BYLAWS

ARTICLE 1. MEMBERSHIP

Any person (being 18 or older) desiring to become a member of the association shall submit a request for membership to the Secretary. The application shall be filled out in full at the first meeting and voted on by the general membership, and if accepted then pay their dues. They are considered a probationary member, and at any time during the first 120 days the Board may find reason to terminate their membership. After 120 days they will have passed the probationary period. A simple majority vote (50%) Of the members in good standing, present, is required to admit a new member. Any member may accept an application for membership to be forwarded to the Secretary. There shall be 5 types of membership.

Section 1. Riding Member

One who states his/her desire to be a member of the drill team and parade. Upon approval of his/her horse and rigging by the drill team officials, one may become a riding member. In order to retain riding member status, members must attend an average of 50% of both practice drill and public appearances. They will be required to keep their horse and rigging in the best condition at all times and to furnish their own transportation. Youth riding members aged 10-15 years may be a riding member and participate in drill practice, but may not be able to perform in any rodeo performance or parade unless they have proved to the drill captain and assistant drill captain that they can handle their horse and conduct themselves in a proper manner, and age is approved by rodeo contractor. Parent or legal guardian must sign a release and waiver. All members of the drill team shall be attired in the prescribed uniform at all performances and upon failure to comply with this provision shall not be permitted to take part in any such performances. Each member rides at his/her own risk and neither the organization nor member there of can be held responsible for injuries to any person, mount or equipment incurred by any member while participating in any activity of the organization.

Section 2. Non-Riding Member

One who is not a member of the drill team, but to whom all other rules and regulation similarly apply. Non-riding members will not have a vote on matters Applying to the drill team.

Section 3. Honorary Members

One who is elected to honorary membership in the same manner as a new member. Any person elected to honorary membership shall have no vote nor shall he/she be required to comply with the provisions of these By Laws relating to active members. Honorary members shall not be required to pay membership dues.

Section 4. Life Membership

A life membership awarded to an outstanding regular member for which the Association shows its appreciation and gratitude, may, by a majority vote of the members in a attendance, be elected to Life Member ship. Life Member will have all the privileges, and not be required to pay any dues.

Section 5. Family Membership

This membership shall be extended to those wishing to join as a family (immediate family members only, living in the same household up to the age of 17), voting privilege provided to those members 18 years and older. Family members 18 years and older will have individual membership.

ARTICLE II. DUES

Dues will be thirty dollars (\$30.00) a year for individual members, and forty dollars (\$40.00) a year for family membership. Initiation fee will be five dollars (\$5.00). New members first years dues will be prorated over the remaining months, after approval for membership. Dues shall be payable on or before the December meeting for the period of 1 December through 30 November. Members that enter the Armed Services will have free dues for their enlistment.

ARTICLE III. UNIFORM

Uniform shall consists of a western shirt and trousers voted on by the riding members; suitable tie decided as proper attire; any which all will wear alike and neat as to suitable signify the dignity of the uniform. The hat worn as part of the uniform shall be alike as to color and voted on by the riding members; normally straw in Spring and Summer (April-September) and felt in the Fall and Winter (October-March). Dark colored western belt and boots will be clean and neat. Horses will be neatly groomed, tack will be clean and made of leather, black nylon or brown nylon.

ARTICLE IV. MEETINGS

Meetings shall be the second Monday of each month and the GCSMP shall elect their officers for the year at the December meeting. New Officers duties will be effective upon adjournment of the December meeting.

ARTICLE V. OFFICERS

Section 1. President

Who shall direct the ordinary business activities of the Association, shall preside over all meetings thereof, over the Board of Directors, and shall present to the membership such recommendations, as he/she deems advisable for the best interest of the Association. He/she shall appoint such committees as he/she may deem necessary.

Section 2. Vice President

Who shall succeed the President, if the office of the President becomes vacant, and perform the duties of the President in his/her absence.

Section 3. Secretary

Who shall record and make a matter of record all meetings of the membership and of the Board of Directors. He/she shall keep an accurate and current attendance record. He/she shall further handle and shall read all correspondences received at the regular meetings. He/she shall maintain accurate record of Posse inventory. At the end of the year the Secretary shall make a list of all of the Bylaws passed that year and present a copy to each.

Section 4. Treasurer

Who shall be the custodian of the funds of the Association and the financial records. He/she may at his/her discretion place the funds of the association in a joint account with the President. He/she shall prepare an annual report (January-December of his/her tenure) to be available to members at the January meeting. He/she shall act as Hospitality Host/Hostess in obtaining the flowers, plants, cards, etc for specific occasions.

Section 5. Director of Public Relations

Who shall maintain a permanent record of the organization and its activities, and shall use appropriate publicity releases to the press and radio regarding the activities if the organization. He/she shall publish and distribute newsletters as required.

Section 6. Drill Captain, Assistant Drill Caption and Lieutenants

The Drill Captain shall have absolute authority to direct the activities of the drill team, be responsible for it's activities, and for the training and discipline for all it's members. His/Her authority over the members of the drill team outranks any office any rider may hold outside the drill team. He/She shall also keep records of all the training drills, parades, and local and out of town public performances/functions. The Assistant Drill Captain shall be second in command and shall assume the duties of the Drill Captain in his/her absence. He/She shall be the executive officer of the orders of the Drill Captain. He/She shall be the co-custodian of all excess inventory (riding related) stored on the Posse grounds. Each First Lieutenant shall be responsible for the training, discipline, and presence of each member of his/her platoon at each function of the organization.

Section 7. Board of Directors

The Directors will not act as governing body but will act as a planning and investigating committee and will present their ideas to the members for approval. The President will act as Chairman of the Board. The Directors shall assist the President in the discharge of his/her duties. The will have an expenditure limitation of three hundred dollars (\$300.00) per item. When time will permit, all expenditures will be presented to the members for approval. The Board of Directors will have the authority to approve or disapprove the use of the GCMSP properties in a situation when the time does not permit General Membership approval. Any one member of the five (5) Board of Directors who misses three (3) consecutive meetings will be dismissed from the Board of Directors and the President will approve a new member. Any complaints against an Officer and/or a member of the Board of Directors should be addressed to the Board of Directors. The Officers and Board of Directors can investigate and remove any Officer for not fulfilling their duties.

ARTICLE VI. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR OFFICIALS

To hold office one must be an active member in good standing.

An active member may only hold one elected office at a time. Before an active member can be elected to any office in the Association, he/she must attend at least six (6) meetings of the preceding twelve (12) meetings. Eligibility requirements may be waived, if warranted, by a majority vote of the members.

Section 1. President

The President may be elected two (2) one-year (1) terms in succession, but he/she may not be elected to a third (3) consecutive term.

Section 2. Drill/Assistant Drill Captain and Lieutenants

Drill Captain and assistant Drill Captain must be riding members and elected only by riding members. The Drill Captain will appoint First Lieutenants

ARTICLE VII. CONDUCT

Misconduct of members and/or will be subject to possible dismissal from the organization. Proper conduct while representing the GCSMP will be expected in public at all times. Any member refusing to comply with a reasonable order of a superior officer shall be summarily suspended or dropped from the rolls upon a majority vote of the Officers and Board of Directors and there upon he/she shall surrender any Posse property in his/her possession to the treasurer of the Organization.

ARTICLE VIII. PROPERTY

Property belonging to or hereafter acquired by the organization shall belong to each, in the proportion that his/her membership bears to the total membership of the Organization. Upon the dissolution of the Organization, all property shall be sold and under the supervision of the Board of Directors to the highest bidders and the proceeds of the sale distributed among non-profit organization(s) chosen by the majority of active members.

ARTICLE IX. ELIGIBILITY FOR DRILL TEAM

Eligibility for riding members to make public appearances will depend on the amount of drill team practices the member attends. Approval is at the discretion of the drill captain and will consist of the member's ability to control their horse at a walk, trot, lope, gallop, stop, and rein a pattern. The rider must demonstrate his or her ability to ride with hands free of the saddle horn and be able to carry a flag if needed. A roll is to be kept by the Drill Captain and available for viewing at drill practice. The Drill Captain has final word on which member rides at a performance. Non-riding members who wish to ride in parades are encourage to do so, but will be required to wear dark blue jeans, white shirt, and straw or felt hat (seasonal), and they will ride behind the drill team. Drill team members may vote on drill team matters if they are at least 18 years old.

GROUND RULES

1. Posse sponsored functions will have an established curfew. This curfew will be established by the entertainment committee, subject to the approval of the President. At this time all members and guest will vacate the grounds. No additional functions will be allowed for the next 12 hours.
2. The gates to the Posse grounds and buildings will be locked when no one is present. Drill nights, the gates will be unlocked and left open and it will be the responsibility of the last party to leave to turn off the lights and lock the gate.
3. Each Posse Member will be allowed access to grounds. Members are welcome to bring guest to the grounds when they are present and part of the group. Guests will be allowed to visit the arena to ride 3 (three) times. After 3 times they must become a member to continue using the Posse facilities and arenas. Non-Posse members will not be allowed to use the grounds for any reason when unaccompanied. Non-Posse members or organizations may use the grounds only after approval from Officers and Board of Directors, signing a hold harmless agreement, and providing written evidence of adequate insurance.
4. Gates to the arena will be kept close at all times when the arena is not in use. Horses and other stock may be temporarily (24 hour limit) left in arena pens with GCSMP Officer notification, but under no condition will they be allowed to remain in the arena or loose on the grounds.
5. Arena is reserved from 12:00 noon on designated days for posse functions for the arena to be prepared and for participation members only to warm up horses. No other horses are allowed on the property past the end of the arena fence as you come in the gate (south end of arena) towards the north end of the arena that is not involved with a participating member on these days until 30 minutes after practice is over.

6. On drill nights, children will not be allowed beyond the fence on the north end of the arena. They must leave the arena as soon as the first whistle blows for drill. They will not be permitted to return until the drill is completed and horses have returned to the east side of the arena. Return to the arena will be only for the purpose of riding. Children not mounted will not be permitted in the arena while others are riding.
7. Members using the picnic grounds will be sure the area is clean prior to leaving.
8. There will be no firing of firearms on the grounds unless approved by the Board of Directors and Sheriff.
9. Each member uses the grounds at his/her own risk.
10. All members and visitors to the Posse grounds will abide by the Alcohol Consumption Regulations set forth by the Alcoholic Beverage Commission.
11. Glass containers are not allowed on Posse grounds.
12. Arena will not be used for riding lessons for personal monetary gains, unless a clinician is brought in with approval by the Board of Directors for a Posse function or clinic. Any person receiving income for personal gain from the use of the arena and/or posse grounds without approval from the Board (with provided proof of insurance) will be suspended from use of the arena for 90 days. A second occurrence would lead to permanent suspension of membership by the Board of Directors.

HOSPITALITY RULES

1. Plant/flowers to a member/immediate family in case of death. Immediate family consists of a member's spouse, children, parents and siblings.
2. Plants/flowers to a member/spouse in case of hospitalization for serious illness or accident.
3. Greeting card to acknowledge death or illness when plant/flowers are not sent.
4. Acknowledge of member's marriage or birth of a child by gift, flowers or plant.
5. It will be the responsibility of the member to notify the Treasurer of the necessity of sending plant/flowers/card. If no acknowledgment is desired, please advise.

BUCKLE ELIGIBILITY

Longevity Buckle

Committee Members- The Board of Directors of the current year.

The committee will meet once a year and decide who is eligible and select deserving person(s) for the award of “the Buckle”.

1. Must have been a member in good standing for ten (10) continuous years.
2. This person/persons must demonstrate through their active participation as an active member in good standing for at least the two (2) previous years that they themselves are worthy of this award (just a dues paying member does not qualify).
3. There will be a maximum of three (3) buckles awarded to deserving individuals each year, provided adequate funds are available.
4. The committee will decide in August as to who is eligible for the award (if any), from the above criteria. The person(s) who is/are selected to receive “The Buckle” will be presented with their award at the Christmas party.
5. The committee will be responsible for the design and purchasing of the buckle from Posse funds.
6. Funds will be set aside for each buckle (providing that funds are available).

Life Membership Buckle

Sponsored by the GCMSP

Committee Members- The board of Directors of the current year.

The committee will meet once a year and decide who is eligible and select deserving person(s) for the Life Membership Buckle award. An honorary membership awarded to an outstanding regular member for whom the Association shows its appreciation and gratitude, may, if they have been members in good standing for no less than twenty (20) years, and by a majority vote by the members in attendance, be elected to Life Membership. Life Members will have all the privileges, and not be required to pay any dues.

Eligibility Criteria

1. Must have been a member in good standing no less that twenty (20) years.
2. This person(s) must demonstrate through their active participation as an active member in good standing for at least the two (2) previous year that they themselves are worthy of this award. (just being a dues paying member does not qualify).
3. There will be a maximum of two (2) buckles awarded to deserving individuals each year, provided that adequate funds are available.

4. The committee will decide in August of each year as to who is eligible for this award (if any) from the above criteria. The person(s) who is/are selected to receive the Life Membership Buckle will also have all the privileges of membership and pay no dues.
5. The committee will be responsible for the design and purchasing of the buckle from the GCMSP funds.
6. Funds will be set aside for each buckle (providing that the funds are available).