

**CONSTITUTION and
BY-LAWS**

of the

**AMERICAN VECTURIST
ASSOCIATION**



August 2022

This Constitution and By-Laws was adopted unanimously at the annual convention of the American Vecturist Association on August 1, 1959, held at Santa Monica, California, and was subsequently approved by the Executive Board. The use of the word "he" or "his" should be considered non gender specific. There are both male and female members of the organization and the gender of members is not implied by the use of these words.

The document has since been amended six different times. Full details will be found in The Fare Box, on dates and pages as follows:

August 1961 (Page 76):

- Proposal by Coffee that convention locations be determined by the Executive Board, and at least nine months in advance.

Ratification reported: October 1961 (Page 99)

August 1966 (Page 126):

- Proposals by Targonsky that future life memberships be granted only to individuals, and that voting privileges be allowed only for individuals.
- Proposal by Ritterband that the Executive Board be increased from six to seven members, with the Editor of *The Fare Box* to become the additional member.

Ratifications reported: January 1967 (Page 1)

August 1971 (Page 94)

- Proposal by Coffee that the Curator be appointed by the President, instead of elected by the members.
- Proposals by Ritterband that all officers be chosen for two-year terms; that the President and Vice-President not be eligible to succeed themselves; and that no member of the Executive Board be permitted to hold more than one position thereon at a time.

Ratifications reported: March 1972 (Page 34)

September 1972 (Page 110)

- Proposal by Mazeau that the age limit for Junior Members be lowered to eighteen years.
- Proposal by Ritterband that nominations be made only with the advance consent of the nominees.

Ratifications reported: February 1973 (Page 15)

February 1998 (Pages 17 & 18)

- Numerous changes, mainly updating items and general housekeeping.

Ratifications reported: March 1998 (Page 29)

October 2013 (Pages 119 & 120)

- Several housekeeping changes. Removal of duplicate or conflicting information in Article III, Sections 6 & 9 and Article V, Section 9. Making several completion dates non-convention date specific in Article VII, Sections 4 & 6; Article VIII, Section 5; Article XII, Section 1
- Remove Article VII, Sections 7 & 11 and rewrite Article VII, Section 23 for clarity. Renumber all Article VII Sections.
- Expansion of Executive Board from 7 to 10 members in Article VI, Section 1
- Remove the requirement to mail *The Fare Box* in Article X, Section 4.

Ratifications reported: December 2013 (Page 136)

August 2022

- Rewrite definition of life membership in Article III, Section 3
- Add definition of associate member in Article III, Section 5
- Correct error and update application information in Article III, Section 6
- Change office in Article III, Sections 7, 8, and 9 and Article V, Section 1 from Secretary to Corresponding Secretary
- Add definition of fiscal year to Article IV
- Split duties of Secretary to Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary in Article V, Section 4
- Clarify definition of investments in Article V, Section 5
- Delete unused previous Section E from Article V
- Add new Executive Board members in Article VI, Section 1
- Rewrite Past President membership in Article VI, Section 6
- Change person receiving election nomination to Election Committee Chairman and redefine nomination process in Article VII, Section 4
- Clarify return of dues in Article IX, Section 6
- Standardize Article and Section formats.

ARTICLE I ... NAME

The name of this organization shall be the American Vecturist Association.

ARTICLE II ... PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purposes and objectives of this organization shall be to advance the knowledge of transportation tokens along educational, historical, and scientific lines, in all its branches; to assist in bringing about better cooperation among persons interested in the issue, circulation, classification, collection, exhibition, use, and preservation of all transportation and kindred tokens; to promote greater popular interest in the science of transportation token collecting; and for the particular purpose of bringing the collectors thereof into closer relationship with one another and of promoting friendly feelings for one another through social intercourse, the exchange of ideas and discussions of mutual interest; and to perform all such other acts and things as may be necessary to the full carrying into effect of these purposes, but such purposes not to include any operations for pecuniary profit.

ARTICLE III ... MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 The membership of this Association shall consist of regular members, life members, junior members, and associate members.

Section 2 Any individual of good moral character, eighteen years of age or over, and any local club, association, museum, library, or kindred organization whose purposes are consistent with those contained in this instrument, shall be eligible for regular membership.

Section 3 While previously life membership could be purchased for defined fees, life membership shall now only be honorary as bestowed by the Executive Board and for any regular members who have been a member for 50 years or more. Life members shall have all the privileges of regular members. They shall retain their regular membership numbers, except that such numbers for life members shall be preceded by the letter "L".

Section 4 Any individual of good moral character, less than eighteen years of age, shall be eligible for junior membership, provided that his application is approved by either his parent or guardian. During the minority of a junior member, his membership number shall be preceded by the letter "J". Upon reaching his majority, the said member shall automatically become a regular member, entitled to all the privileges thereof.

Section 5 All members shall be entitled to all the privileges of the Association, with the following exceptions:

- A. Junior members may not hold office.
- B. Members may lose the right to vote. (See Article VIII, Section 6)

- C. Life memberships now being held by associations or institutions shall no longer include any voting privileges.
- D. Associate membership shall be given to spouses of all current or past members who live in the same household. The associate member shall not pay dues nor have voting rights.

Section 6 Applications for membership shall be made in writing, on forms prescribed by the Executive Board, and shall be accompanied by such admission fee and/or annual dues as may then be in force. Such application shall furnish the name, address, and occupation of the applicant, his age at last birthday, telephone number, email address, and other such information with respect to his collecting activities as may be prescribed by the Executive Board. If the application is incomplete, it should be returned to the applicant for further information. The application of any local club, association, museum, library or other kindred organization, shall include the names and addresses of the officers, a statement of its purposes and objectives, the date of its organization, and other such information as may be prescribed by the Executive Board.

Section 7 Such application, together with the admission fees and dues, shall be sent to the Corresponding Secretary, who shall cause notice of the application to be published in the official publication of the Association.

Section 8 If no written objection to such application is received by the Corresponding Secretary by the first of the month succeeding its publication, the applicant shall become a member on the tenth of that month.

Section 9 If written and timely objection to such admission is received by the Corresponding Secretary, he/she shall refer same to the President, who shall thereupon advise the applicant of the nature of the objection, and request an answer thereto. When this has been received, the President shall forward all available information to the Executive Board for consideration and action. The Executive Board may either accept or reject such application, and in either event shall notify the Corresponding Secretary of its decision. The Corresponding Secretary will then notify the applicant.

- A. When the Executive Board accepts such application, the applicant shall be admitted, and notice thereof shall be published in the official publication.
- B. In case the applicant is rejected, the advance payment for dues and admission fees shall be returned to him.

Section 10 An official membership card shall be provided and given to each member and retained for membership as long as annual dues are paid. Life members will receive a special, permanent membership card.

ARTICLE IV ... ADMISSION FEES, DUES, and FISCAL YEAR

Section 1 The annual dues and admissions fees of the Association shall be fixed by the annual conventions of the Association.

Section 2 The dues of the Association shall be due on January 1 of each year.

Section 3 Dues for new memberships which shall become effective on or after July 1 shall be one-half the current annual dues.

Section 4 Any member who fails to pay his dues before March 1 in any year shall be liable for suspension, in which case his name shall be dropped from the membership roll and from the mailing list.

Section 5 Any member suspended for non-payment of dues, or who has resigned, may be reinstated upon payment of dues and fees that have been fixed by the annual convention of the Association, providing that no charges are pending against him, or in such case only if the charges are dropped or dismissed.

Section 6 The fiscal year of the association shall run from July 1 to June 30 of the following year.

ARTICLE V ... OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES

The elected officers of this Association shall be the President, Vice-President, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer. The appointed officers of this Association shall be the Curator and the Editor.

Section 1 The duties of the President shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- A. To preside at all meetings of the Association. Also to call meetings of the Executive Board and preside thereat.
- B. To appoint the Curator and the Editor, subject to the approval of the Executive Board.
- C. To appoint all committees that may be necessary and to remove them at will.

Section 2 The duties of the Vice-President shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- A. To assist the President, upon his request, in the discharge of his duties.
- B. To act in the place of the President, in case of his absence or disability.

- C. In case of the death, absence, or inability of the President, the Vice-President shall succeed to his prerogatives and duties for all purposes.

Section 3 The duties of the Recording Secretary shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- A. To keep a true record of the non-financial transactions of the Association and preserve all documents pertaining to his office.
- B. To act as Secretary of the Executive Board, keep a true record of its proceedings, and send a copy to each of its members.

Section 4 The duties of the Corresponding Secretary shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- A. To receive all applications for membership, when properly prepared and accompanied by the required advance dues and admission fees, and to forward notice thereof to the Treasurer, Fare Box Distributor, and Editor of the official publication.
- B. Funds submitted with an application form should be sent to the Treasurer in a timely manner.

Section 5 The duties of the Treasurer shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- To receive all money of the Association collected from any source.
- To pay out money on all warrants presented to him.
- To deposit the funds of the Association in checking accounts, money market accounts, savings accounts, or CDs.
- To prepare an accounting of all funds received, and a full and final report of all matters pertaining to his office at the end of each fiscal year, and render the same accompanied by the proper vouchers to the Association through the President.

Section 6 The duties of the Curator shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- A. To keep in safe custody and good order all books, papers, tokens, etc., which the Association has or may acquire.
- B. To compile and keep an accurate accounting of all material coming into his care, with the price thereof, if acquired by purchase, or the name of the donor if acquired by gift. Expenses of material shall be submitted to the Treasurer.
- C. To afford access to such material and to loan the same to members of the Association under such rules and regulations as may be adopted by the Executive Board.
- D. To prepare an accounting of all funds received, and a full and final report of all matters pertaining to his office at the end of each fiscal year, and render the same, accompanied by the proper vouchers, to the Association through the President.

- E. To compile and keep a record of the activities and achievements of the Association, and to make historical facts available on request to officers, chairmen, and the Editor of the official publication.
- F. Acting as custodian for all records and other materials pertinent to the history of the Association. It is especially important that the Curator keep early records intact.

Section 7 Each officer at the end of his term shall deliver to his successor all books, papers, tokens, or other property of the Association in his possession.

Section 8 No officer, committee, or member shall incur any new expense in the name of the Association, except with the authorization of the Executive Board.

Section 9

- A. All elected officers of the Association shall be elected every two years. When there are no nominees for that office, then the incumbent shall remain in office.
- B. Officers will assume their duties at the beginning of the final session of the annual convention, and will hold office until their successors have been duly elected and declared installed.

ARTICLE VI ... STRUCTURE AND DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1 The Executive Board shall consist of the following members: President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Curator, *Fare Box* Editor, all Past Presidents, Atwood-Coffee Catalogue Editor, Foreign Token Catalogue Editor, A-C Token Listing & Valuation Chairman, Convention Chairman, Webmaster, and Librarian. No member of the Executive Board shall be permitted to hold more than one elected position in that group at any one time. A member of the Executive Board shall be permitted to hold both an elected and an appointed position. If a person holds more than one Board position, they shall only be eligible to cast one vote related to Board business.

Section 2 The Executive Board shall be empowered to represent the Association between the annual conventions.

Section 3 The Executive Board shall provide its own methods of organization and procedure.

Section 4 The Executive Board shall appoint a successor for the remainder of the term in the event of a vacancy in any elective office.

Section 5 In the event of any vacancies, the pro-tempore successors shall become members of the Executive Board and shall have the same powers as the elected officers. Except that, if the position of Past President shall become vacant, no successor shall be appointed.

Section 6 Immediately after retiring from office, the President shall remain a member of the Executive Board, and shall retain this position for life.

Section 7 It is the responsibility of the Executive Board to assign someone to produce and distribute a membership directory.

ARTICLE VII ... ELECTIONS

Section 1 The elections of the Association shall be as follows:

- A. Regular Elections: An election held prior to an annual convention, for the purpose of electing officers for the Association, shall be known as a regular election.
- B. Special Elections: Extra or additional elections, for the purpose of recalling any or all of the officers of the Association, or to vote on resolutions or amendments to the by-laws, shall be known as special elections.

Regular Elections

Section 2 Every two years, in the December issue of *The Fare Box*, the President shall issue a call for the nomination of officers. Such nominations may be made by any member in good standing.

Section 3 Every nomination shall be made in writing to the Election Committee Chairman, and shall include the written consent of each nominee. All nominations shall close at midnight on March 15th.

Section 4 Immediately after the closing of nominations, the Election Committee Chairman shall send the names of all affirmed nominees, together with the names of their respective nominators, to the Editor for publication in *The Fare Box*. The Editor shall also cause the nominations to be printed at the bottom of a page in the official publication. The completed ballot shall then be mailed to the Chairman of the Election Committee.

Section 5 In the event that there is only one nomination for each office and no nominee has any opposition, the ballots may be dispensed with, and the President may then declare the election by acclamation.

Section 6 The polls shall close for the regular elections 30 days prior to the annual convention.

Special Elections

Section 7 Upon a petition, bearing the signatures of one-fifth of the membership in good standing, being delivered to the Chairman of the Election Committee, calling for a special election with the purpose of recalling any or all officers, the Chairman shall then cause notice of a special election to be made in the official publication. The Editor shall mail ballots to the membership, in the following issue, giving them the opportunity to recall the officer or officers named in the petition. Should such officer or officers be recalled, the Chairman of the Election Committee shall immediately issue a call for nominations in a new election to be held immediately, in accordance with these by-laws.

Section 8 A three-fourths vote of those members voting shall be necessary to recall any officer.

Section 9 The President may call for a special election for the purpose of voting on resolutions or amendments to the by-laws.

General By-Laws

Section 10 Upon receiving the official ballots, the Chairman of the Election Committee shall remove the outside mailing envelope and retain the envelope marked "Official Ballot". It shall remain sealed until the meeting of the Election Committee, and shall then be opened only in the presence of the other two members of the Election Committee.

Section 11 No nominee in any election shall be a member of the Election Committee having supervision over such election.

Section 12 The Election Committee shall count only votes registered on an official ballot. Any other ballots are to be ruled illegal by the Committee.

Section 13 The Election Committee shall be in charge of all ballots, and they must be retained for ninety days after the close of the election. Any ballot which in the opinion of the Committee clearly indicates the intention of the member shall be considered valid. When a member has voted for more candidates than are permitted for an office, or if for any reason the member's vote for a particular office is declared invalid, the vote for that office shall not be counted. However this shall not affect the validity of the remainder of the ballot.

Section 14 Nominees receiving the largest number of votes shall be elected.

Section 15 No member shall be eligible for election as an officer of this Association until he shall have been a member of the Association in continuous good standing for three years immediately prior to nomination.

Section 16 No member shall be permitted to run for more than one elective office in the Association at the same time.

Section 17 After the deadline for accepting nominations, no further nominations shall be accepted, and no so-called "write-in" candidates shall be considered legal.

Section 18 No member shall misrepresent returns, or alter, manipulate or destroy deposited ballots. No member shall vote fraudulently, or intimidate others by threats, or otherwise interfere with a member in the exercise of his right to cast his ballot.

Section 19 No member of the Association shall circulate, or cause to be circulated, false propaganda against any member or candidate for office, or direct any propaganda against any candidate because of his race, color, nationality, or religious or political affiliation.

Section 20 Any member violating any of the election rules shall be subject to censure, suspension, or expulsion.

Section 21 As soon as possible after his election, the President shall appoint three members of the Election Committee from the current Executive Board.

ARTICLE VIII ... CONVENTIONS

Section 1 The Association shall meet in a convention once each year, at a time and place to be decided at least six months in advance.

Section 2 A quorum for the transaction of business at such conventions shall consist of seven members present in person.

Section 3 To expedite the work of such conventions, as soon as it shall be expedient to do so, the President shall each year appoint:

- A. An election committee of not fewer than three members, whose duties shall be to canvass the official ballots cast, and to report the results thereof at the last business meeting of the convention.
- B. A resolutions committee of not fewer than three members, whose duties shall be to consider all matters referred to it, and to report thereon as soon as convenient before the close of the convention.

- C. An auditing committee of not fewer than three members, whose duties shall be to audit such reports and accounts as may be referred to it, and to report thereon as soon as convenient before the close of the convention.
- D. Such other committees as the President may deem advisable to facilitate the work of the convention.

Section 4 Conventions shall be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order.

Section 5 Copies of all resolutions and by-laws amendments to be considered by a convention must be introduced to the convention before the end of the first session of the General Membership Meeting.

Section 6 Any member attending an annual convention who creates a disturbance shall lose voice and his rights to vote at said session and at the discretion of the President or acting President may be evicted from said convention.

ARTICLE IX ... INVESTIGATION AND TRIAL OF MEMBERS

Section 1 All investigation and trial of members shall be conducted by the Executive Board, and all decisions made by them shall be final.

Section 2 Whenever written charges are brought against any member, of conduct prejudicial to the welfare of the Association, such charges shall be signed by the person or persons making same. The identity of these persons shall not be known except to the Executive Board. Such charges, with particulars thereof, shall be filed with the President, who shall inform the accused member of the charges against him and offer him a reasonable opportunity to enter a written defense. The matter shall then be referred to the Executive Board, which shall determine the case, under such rules and regulations as it may adopt. Until the final decision of the Executive Board, the accused member shall continue in good standing.

Section 3 A witness may not be disqualified, because he is not a member of this Association.

Section 4 If the accused shall be found guilty by the decision of at least two-thirds of the Executive Board, they shall so declare, and the President of the Association shall at once pronounce the member to be suspended or expelled from the Association, provided, however, that the Executive Board may impose a lesser penalty because of mitigating circumstances or other grounds.

Section 5 When a member of the Association is accused of an offense and desires to withdraw from the Association, the Executive Board may permit such member to withdraw, in

which case the records shall show “Withdrawn under complaints”. If formal charges have been presented, such member may be permitted to withdraw, in which case the records shall show “Withdrawn under charges”. In either case the status shall be the same as if the member had been expelled.

Section 6 Any person having been suspended or expelled shall not be considered for reinstatement by the Executive Board until two years have elapsed, and all claims or charges against such person have been satisfactorily settled. The pro-rated balance of any paid dues shall be returned to the person.

ARTICLE X ... OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

Section 1 There shall be published at least once a month by the Association a publication designed to educate and to acquaint the membership with the activities of this Association. The title of said publication shall be *The Fare Box, Official Publication of the American Vecturist Association.*

Section 2 *The Fare Box* shall be under the supervision of the Executive Board. The Editor of such publication shall be appointed by the President, subject to the approval of the Executive Board.

Section 3 The Editor shall appoint his assistants, subject to the approval of the Executive Board.

Section 4 Every member in good standing shall receive without additional cost a copy of each issue of *The Fare Box*.

Section 5 The Editor shall reserve the right to reject any and all subscriptions or advertisements which would not, in the opinion of the Editor, be in the best interests of the hobby or the Association.

ARTICLE XI ... CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS

Section 1 Any agreement entered into, in writing, between the Executive Board and a member of the Association shall continue to be in force and be honored by all future Executive Boards, until the terms of the agreement shall have been completed on both sides.

Article XII ... BY-LAWS CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS

Section 1 This Constitution and By-Laws may be amended, altered or revised, only in accordance with the following procedures:

- A. A resolution or motion in writing calling for an amendment, alteration, or revision, shall be presented and read to the first session of any annual convention's General Membership Meeting.
- B. The resolution or motion shall then be referred to the Resolutions Committee, and shall be reported out by said committee at the second session of the General Membership Meeting of the convention, together with the recommendations of the committee.
- C. A vote shall be taken on the recommendations of the Resolutions Committee. It shall require an affirmative vote of two-thirds of those voting to receive convention approval.
- D. The approved resolution shall be presented to the membership for final adoption, in accordance with the election provisions of this Constitution.
- E. A three-fourths vote of those members voting shall then be necessary to amend, alter, or revise the Constitution and By-Laws.

CODE OF ETHICS

1. In their dealings and relationships with those who are not members of the Association, members shall, in all matters involving transportation tokens, so conduct themselves as to bring no discredit or reproach to the Association or its members.
2. Dealings between members shall be maintained on a voluntary basis, upon such prices, terms and methods of payment as they may agree, and such dealings may be terminated at the will of either party.
3. No member shall knowingly offer to sell to another, any token, either of doubtful origin or otherwise not entitled to listing as a regular issue, without disclosing to the prospective purchaser such facts as are known to the prospective seller.
4. In offering specific tokens to a prospective purchaser, the prospective seller shall hold them for the decision of the prospective purchaser for fifteen days (or such shorter term as may be contained in the offer) before offering them to another party.
5. Any and all tokens sent by one member to another, whether in response to a specific request or pursuant to a want-list, are returnable without any reason whatsoever, provided however that such return shall be made within fifteen days from the receipt thereof, or such other period as may be specifically agreed upon between the parties.
6. A member purchasing tokens from another shall make payment in full for those retained, within thirty days from their receipt, unless otherwise specifically agreed upon between the parties. Where a member maintains a running account of credits and charges with another, either shall have the right to terminate said agreement by notice to the other. If settlement is requested by either, payment of the balance due shall be made within thirty days from receipt of notice to that effect.

7. It shall be considered an act detrimental to the interests of this Association for anyone knowingly to sell or offer any token which is not a legitimate original issue, without stating the exact nature of the piece, or to permit tokens from his collection to be used for the purpose of making identical or similar re-strikes.

(The first six sections of this Code of Ethics were adopted by the Executive Board in February 1950. The seventh section was unanimously adopted by the annual convention in August 1963, and was subsequently approved by the Executive Board.)