LE PHARE DES ALPES

Mutual Aid Society
Founded May 1909

Constitution and By-Laws
Revised July 1, 2025

INDEX

Chapter	
I	Aims & Purposes
II	Definition of Members
III	Admission of Members
IV	Obligation of Members
V	Rights of Members
VI	Officers
VII	Duties of Officers
VIII	Meetings
IX	Elections
X	By-Laws

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Mutual Aid Society
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Statutes and By-Laws

Chapter I. Aims and Purposes

Article 1.

A. To promote fellowship and solidarity and maintain the glorious Waldensian Heritage.

B. To provide stipulated aid for the members in the event of need.

C. To provide aid to the family on death or financial need.

Chapter II. Definition of Member

Article 2.

A. A member is a male who in addition to having been approved by the membership committee (see Article 3), pays a non-refundable application fee, annual dues and assessments, and enjoys the benefits and privileges offered by the Society. All members have the right to vote and are eligible to hold office.

Chapter III. Admission Requirements

Article 3.

A. A candidate for membership must have attained the age of 18, submit a non-refundable fee specified in these Articles. All applications must be signed by two (2) members in good standing who will in turn submit it to a Membership Committee (see Article 5). The Membership Committee will review the application, and if approved, the application will be voted on by secret ballot at any regular meeting. Any candidate for membership, and/or their sponsor, will be required to meet with the membership committee before being presented to the general assembly for vote.

B. In addition, such candidate must attend at least one regularly scheduled quarterly meeting before his application will be considered for membership.

C. Voting for membership into the LPDA will be done in the absence of the applicant. The candidate will be admitted as a member providing that he receives no more than two (2) dissenting votes (blackballs).

D. A candidate who is rejected for LPDA membership will not be allowed to attend any LPDA functions as a guest.

Article 4.

All candidates will be notified by the Corresponding Secretary as to the disposition of their application.

Article 5.

A Membership Committee, consisting of three (3) members, will be appointed by the President at each July meeting for a maximum term of one (1) year. This Committee must approve or disapprove all applications for membership (see Article 3.A.).

Chapter IV. Obligations of Members

Article 6.

It is the duty of each member to observe the statutory regulations legally enacted by the assembly, and to carry out impartially, and to the best of his ability, any duties which may be entrusted to him, and to promote and guard the honor and integrity of the Society.

Article 7.

The non-refundable application for members will be $20.00.

Article 8.

A. **The annual dues for members will be $40.00 payable at each July meeting or by mail to the Corresponding Secretary by July 1. LPDA operates on a fiscal year which runs from July 1 to June 30. At age eighty (80) the member will be exempt from dues, but will retain**

all rights and privileges. The Secretary-Treasurer will also be exempt from payments of dues.

B. New members will pay the appropriate annual fee at the time they are approved for membership. (See chart below). This will allow membership dues to be paid through the fiscal year.

Member Joins	Annual Dues
July	$40.00
October	$30.00
January	$20.00
April	$10.00

Article 9.

A**.** Any member that is twelve (12) months or more in arrears in the payment of dues will be suspended from membership after notification by the Corresponding Secretary. A member will be dropped from membership if the dues are not paid in full on or before the next meeting following notice.

B. If any member is dropped from membership for non-payment of dues or other actions deemed inappropriate, that member will be eligible for re-application after a waiting period of twelve (12) months beginning the next fiscal year.

Chapter V. Rights of Members

Article 10.

All members by statute, acquire the right to:

A. Attend meetings and participate in discussions and deliberations.

B. Receive upon request any information concerning the statutes and by-laws.

C. Inspect the Secretary-Treasurer's ledgers and reports.

Article 11.

Members are entitled to sick benefits of up to $100.00 annually upon presentation of bills from doctors and/or hospitals which are approved by the assembly, after a deductable of $100.00. Any member joining after the age of sixty-five and any other member joining with such stipulation, will not be entitled to the sick benefits specified in Article 11.
EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2005, ARTICLE 11 IS NO LONGER APPLICABLE. IT HAS BEEN RETAINED HEREIN ONLY FOR HISTORICAL PURPOSES**.**

Article 12.

Upon the death of a member, the family will receive a $25.00 memorial.

Article 13.

Any member who is conscripted or volunteers for military duty in any of the United States Services must inform the Society. He will be exempted from all dues and assessments from the date of induction to the date of discharge.

Chapter VI. Officers of the Society

Article 14.

The officers of the Society shall be:

President
Vice-President
Secretary-Treasurer
Corresponding Secretary
Trustees (three)
LPDA Club Reservations Liaison

These officers constitute the Executive Board and will be responsible for the administration of the Society.

Article 15.

All members in good standing are eligible to hold office.

Article 16.

All officers are elected for a term of one (1) year, but a retiring officer may be re-nominated.

Article 17.

Officers will be reimbursed by the Society for any expenses incurred in the pursuit of their duties upon presentation and approval of itemized bills.

Chapter VII. Duties of the Officers

Article 18.

The President has the following duties:

A. To open, close and preside over all regular and special meetings.
B. To see that order and decorum are maintained at all meetings.
C. To ascertain that all members have a complete knowledge of proposals on which they are to vote;
D. To announce the admission and rejection of all candidates;
E. To countersign with the Secretary-Treasurer the withdrawal of monies from the bank as required (see Article 20 D);
F. To appoint committee members as required;
G. To assume chairperson of Trustee Committee for the year immediately following his duties as President of the Society;
H. To appoint a three person Electoral (Nominating) Committee at the April meeting to present candidates for officers for the new fiscal year commencing in July;
I. To appoint a two person committee at the April meeting for the purposes of selecting and announcing two Lifter's Award recipients at the July meeting for the preceding fiscal year;
J. To recognize the new incoming President at the July meeting who in turn will appoint both a new Trustee Board and a new Membership Committee for the upcoming fiscal year.

Article 19.

The Vice-President has the following duties:

A. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President will function as President and has at all times the following additional duties;
B. To be responsible for collation (meals) and libation (beverages) at each of the regular meetings as well as special occasions including the spring and fall cookouts, the July 4th celebration, and the August street festival;
C. To be responsible for funeral arrangements; i.e. notification of members, memorials, honorary pallbearers, etc.;
D. To be responsible for the inventory, sale and distribution of all LPDA merchandise.

Article 20. The Secretary-Treasurer has the following duties:

A. To keep accurate minutes of the meetings;
B. To keep a journal (cash book) wherein all transactions are recorded;
C. To collect dues;
D. To maintain the Society's checking and savings account. (Withdrawals from the Society's savings account require countersignature of the President);

E. To present a financial report at each meeting and a complete annual statement at the July meeting;
F. To be responsible for financial and legal documents of the Society; i.e. deeds, insurance policies etc.

Article 21.

The corresponding secretary has the following duties:

A. To send notices of all meetings;
B. To take care of all correspondence and printing;
C. To notify by letter those members who are twelve (12) months in arrears in dues (see Article 16);
D. To take over the duties of the Secretary-Treasurer in his absence;

Article 22.

The three Trustees have the following duties;

A. To supervise the administrative work of the Society;
B. To inspect the records of the Society and report their findings at the October meeting;
C. To act as custodians of the house and grounds and to see that all properties are kept in good condition and repair;

D. To suggest to the membership any improvement(s) to the properties which will add to the comfort and enjoyment of the membership;
E. Resolve any club house misuse issues as reported by the LPDA Club Reservations Liaison as it relates to the rental or other use of the property.

Article 23. The LPDA Club Reservations Liaison (to be assumed by the Corresponding Secretary each year) has the following responsibilities:

A. Reserve and coordinate the scheduling of the club house for various civic or social groups that may wish to rent the facility for special events;
B. Collect the current rental fee in the form of a check or cash from each group scheduling an event and turn in this money into the Secretary-Treasurer within five (5) working days of receipt;
C. Furnish a written copy of the house rules governing the rental of the facility to the responsible party representing the requesting organization;
D. Inspect the facility within two (2) days following the rental date and report any misuse or damage of the Facility to the Trustee Chairman immediately upon discovery of such;

Chapter VIII. Meetings

Article 24.

The Society will meet in regularly assembly on the first Saturday of October, January and April, and on July 4th, and in special assembly at the request of the Executive Board.

Article 25.

The Order of the Day for meetings is as follows:

A. Welcome, invocation and special announcements (if any);
B. Recording of attendance;
C. Reading of the minutes and Treasurer's report;
D. Admission of new members;
E. Old business;
F. New business;
G. Collection of dues (can also be done before the meeting begins);
H. Adjournment

Article 26.

At least fifteen (15) members must be present to constitute a quorum. No deliberations, proposals, etc. may be made without a quorum.

Article 27.

Parliamentary procedures to be followed at meetings will be governed by Roberts Rules of Order

Chapter IX. Elections

Article 28.

At the April meeting an Electoral (Nominating) Committee consisting of three (3) members in good standing will be appointed by the President. This committee will select among the members in good standing a slate of officers for the next fiscal year.

Article 29.

At the July meeting, the Electoral (Nominating) Committee will propose its slate and nominations from the floor will be entertained.

Article 30.

Elections will be held by show of hands unless a motion is made for a secret ballot. In the event there are two or more candidates for one office, the one receiving the most votes will be elected.

Article 31.

Installation of new officers will take place immediately after the elections.

Article 32.

Offices vacated during the fiscal year will be filled at the next regular meeting by nominations from the floor and elections will proceed in accordance with Article 30.

Chapter X. By-Laws

Article 33.

Expulsion of a member is possible if:

A. He refuses to abide by the Articles of the statutes and the by-laws; and/or
B. He is found guilty of fraud or misappropriation of the Society's funds.

Article 34.

Expulsion proceedings require a petition of complaint signed by at least five (5) members in good standing. The Executive Board will open inquiries immediately and submit its findings to the assembly. The accused will be permitted to address the assembly in his own defense if he so desires. A member will be expelled upon the assenting vote of seventy-five (75) percent of the members present at a regular meeting of the assembly.

Article 35.

The present statutes, with the exception of Articles 36, 37, and 38, may be amended upon agreement by at least seventy-five (75) percent of members present at any regular meeting, providing that all members have been notified prior to the meeting that proposed amendments to the constitution and by-laws will be on the agenda of that meeting.

Article 36.

Real estate, buildings, and/or property belonging to, or held in the name of the Society may not be sold for the purpose of distribution of the proceeds among members, or placing the proceeds into the funds of the Society.

Article 37.

The Society may not be dissolved as long as there are fifteen (15) members in good standing.

Article 38.

In the event of dissolution, after all the obligations of the Society to the members and creditors are satisfied, all remaining assets must be donated to an established non-profit organization whose aim is the perpetuation of the Waldensian heritage.

Article 39. All the foregoing **Bold-Type** revisions, with the exception of the **Chapter Titles,** have been approved by the assembly at a regular meeting in **April 2025 and became effective on July 1, 2025.**

CONSTITUTION

AND

BY-LAWS

LE PHARE DES ALPES

MUTUAL AID SOCIETY
FOUNDED MAY 1909