

Bylaws of the United States Marine Corps Ground Ordnance Maintenance Association, Inc.

ARTICLE I: Name

Section 1. The name of this corporation shall be the United States Marine Corps Ground Ordnance Maintenance Association, Inc. (hereafter referred to as the "Association").

Section 2. The Association may also be known as the USMC Ground Ordnance Maintenance Association, USMC GOMA, or simply GOMA.

ARTICLE II: Purpose

Section 1. Our mission is to strengthen the Marine Corps Ground Ordnance Maintenance Community by promoting leadership, professional development, and camaraderie among Marines past and present. Through dedicated programs and resources, we aim to support our members' growth and success both in service and beyond.

Section 2. Nonprofit Purpose: This corporation is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

ARTICLE III: Status

Section 1. The Association shall be a nonprofit corporation, operated exclusively for the purposes specified in Article II above.

Section 2. Officers, directors, and appointed officials shall not receive compensation for their services, but the Board of Directors may authorize reimbursement of expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

Section 3. The Association shall use its funds exclusively to accomplish the purposes specified in Article II, and no part of said funds shall benefit members personally.

Section 4. The Association may allocate up to 10% of the balance of the general fund at the time of the award decision to support the established USMC GOMA Scholarship Program. This program is open to all active members in good standing, as well as their spouses, children, stepchildren, and grandchildren, provided they meet the qualifications and apply when the announcement is made on the USMC GOMA website.

Section 5. In the event of dissolution, and after the discharge of all liabilities, the remaining assets shall be distributed to the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation.

ARTICLE IV: Membership

Section 1. The Board of Directors will periodically establish classes of membership and the corresponding dues.

Section 2. Memberships are open to Marines currently serving, or honorably discharged, who have been awarded a Ground Ordnance Maintenance Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) by competent authority.

- Plank Owner
- Lifetime
- Regular (1yr, 2yr, 3yr)

Section 3. Memberships are open to individuals who do not meet the requirements for Regular membership but wish to participate in the Association's activities. These members enjoy all the rights and privileges of regular

membership, except they may not hold elective office (Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, or Treasurer), but may hold appointed positions.

- Associate Lifetime
- Associate (1yr, 2yr, 3yr)

Section 4. Membership Applications: Any eligible person may apply for membership in the Association by submitting a written application or through the Association's website "usmcgoma.org." The Board of Directors shall have final authority in determining membership eligibility.

Section 5. Recommendations for Honorary Membership may be made by any Regular, Lifetime, or Associate member and are subject to Board approval.

Section 6. The Board of Directors may drop any member for good cause with a majority vote.

Section 7. Honor students of each Ground Ordnance Maintenance Course (Basic) will receive one year of free membership and a certificate at graduation.

Section 8. Recipients of the USMC Ground Ordnance Maintenance Association annual awards will receive one year of free membership.

Section 9. Active duty Marines ranking from Private to Sergeant are eligible for an annual membership at no cost.

Section 10. Members may resign by submitting a written resignation to the Secretary, but this does not relieve them of any outstanding dues or charges.

Section 11. Members who refer two new members will receive an annual membership as a reward. Referrals must be noted by the new member during their application process.

Section 12. Membership under special circumstances:

- **Auxiliary Membership (Lifetime Membership):** Open to the widows and widowers of deceased members.
- **Honorary Membership:** This is granted to individuals who have served in an elective or appointive office at the national, state, or local level, or to specific foreign individuals. Honorary members have no voting rights and are exempt from dues.
- **Lifetime Membership (Purple Heart):** Any Ground Ordnance Maintenance Marine who has been wounded and permanently disabled due to hostile action is eligible for Lifetime membership, subject to Board approval.

ARTICLE V: Voting

Section 1. All questions coming before the Board shall be decided by a majority vote, unless otherwise stated in these bylaws.

Section 2. Only Regular, Lifetime, Purple Heart, Plank Owner, Associate, and Associate Lifetime members in good standing are entitled to vote.

Section 3. Proxy voting is permitted at any Association meeting.

Section 4. Elective officers will be determined by a general election at the annual meeting, in accordance with the procedures outlined.

- Voting will be done electronically through a web-based ballot, coordinated by an Election Chairman.

Section 5. Only eligible members (as outlined in Section 2) may vote on future meeting sites.

ARTICLE VI: Dues

Section 1. Membership dues shall be as follows:

- Regular (Including Associate): \$30 annually, \$55 for 2 years, \$75 for 3 years
- Lifetime (Including Associate): \$225
- Plank Owner: Closed

Section 2. All dues are due at the time of application. Renewal dues are due on the anniversary date of the member's original membership.

Section 3. Failure to pay dues results in forfeiture of membership rights.

Section 4. A member who has been dropped for non-payment of dues may be reinstated by re-applying and paying the current year's dues.

ARTICLE VII: Meetings

Section 1. The Association will hold an annual meeting to review annual reports, adopt amendments, and elect Board members as necessary. Notice will be sent to all members at least 30 days prior to the meeting.

Section 2. Special meetings may be called by the Chairman or a majority of the Board of Directors. Notice will be sent to all members with information on the subjects to be discussed.

Section 3. A quorum for a meeting is a majority of the Board of Directors.

Section 4. Board meetings may be conducted via telephone, video conference, or other electronic means, as long as participants can hear each other.

ARTICLE VIII: Board of Directors

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall consist of the following elective officers: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and the immediate Past Chairman.

Section 2. The Board is responsible for overseeing the affairs of the Association, determining policies, and managing its funds.

Section 3. The Board of Directors shall be authorized to adopt resolutions or to establish positions in the name of the association.

Section 4. A majority of the Board constitutes a quorum for decision-making.

Section 5. A Board member may be removed with the consent of three quarters of the voting members during a meeting.

Section 6. All questions brought before the board shall be decided by a majority vote, with each board member, whether physically present or participating via telephone or video conference, entitled to one vote.

Section 7. If a board member resigns, the remaining board members may appoint a replacement by a majority vote of those present. The appointed individual shall serve in that capacity until the position is due for re-election.

Section 8. The board shall establish an Association Conflict of Interest Policy to protect the interests of the tax-exempt organization (Ground Ordinance Maintenance Association) when considering transactions or arrangements that could benefit the private interests of an officer or director or could result in a potential excess benefit transaction. This policy is intended to complement, but not replace, any applicable state and federal laws governing conflicts of interest for nonprofit and charitable organizations.

ARTICLE IX: Officers

Section 1. Elective officers include the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer. All must be members in good standing.

Section 2. Officers are elected every two years.

Section 3. No member may serve more than two consecutive terms as Chairman.

Section 4. Vacancies shall be filled by the Board of Directors or by automatic succession (e.g., the Vice-Chairman replacing the Chairman).

Section 5. The Chairman shall serve as the Chief Executive Officer of the Association. He/she shall preside over meetings of the Association and the Board of Directors and shall be an ex-officio member of all committees, with the right to vote, except for the Nominating Committee. The Chairman shall also, at the annual meeting and at other times as deemed appropriate, communicate information or proposals to the Association or the Board of Directors that, in his/her opinion, would help achieve the purposes of the Association. Additionally, the Chairman shall perform any other duties naturally associated with the office.

Section 6. In the event of the Chairman's temporary disability or absence, the Vice-Chairman shall assume the duties of the Chairman. If both the Chairman and Vice-Chairman are temporarily disabled or absent, the Secretary shall perform the duties of the Chairman.

Section 7. The Secretary shall provide timely written notifications of all meetings of the Association and the Board of Directors and shall maintain a record of all proceedings. The Secretary shall manage membership records, collect annual dues, and turn over the funds to the Treasurer. He/she shall prepare any required correspondence and maintain the Association's correspondence files. The Secretary shall safeguard all important records, documents, and valuable equipment belonging to the Association. Additionally, the Secretary shall perform any other duties commensurate with the office or as assigned by the Board of Directors or the Chairman.

Section 8. The Treasurer shall keep a record of all sums received and expended by the Association, making disbursements as authorized by the Association or the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall deposit all received funds in a financial institution approved by the Board, with funds to be drawn only upon the signature of the Treasurer or the Chairman. The Treasurer shall provide a financial report at the annual meeting or when requested by the Chairman. The funds, books, and vouchers in the Treasurer's custody shall be subject to inspection and verification by the Chairman or any member of the Board of Directors at any time.

Section 9. Indemnification of Board Members

- To the extent legally permissible, the corporation shall indemnify any person who serves or has served as an officer, director, or employee of the corporation against any expenses and liabilities, including, but not limited to, counsel fees, judgments, fines, excise taxes, penalties, and settlement payments, reasonably incurred in connection with any threatened, pending, or completed action, suit, or proceeding arising from their service. However, indemnification will not be provided if the individual has been finally adjudicated in any proceeding not to have acted in good faith and in the reasonable belief that their actions were in the best interests of the corporation. Additionally, any compromise or settlement payment must be approved by a majority vote of the Board of Directors who are not parties to the proceeding.

- The indemnification provided hereunder shall extend to the benefit of the heirs, executors, and administrators of individuals entitled to indemnification. This right of indemnification is in addition to, and not exclusive of, any other rights a person may be entitled to.
 - No amendment or repeal of this Article that adversely affects the right of an indemnified person under this provision shall apply to that person for acts or omissions that occurred before such amendment or repeal, unless the amendment or repeal was approved by a majority vote or written consent of the indemnified person.
 - This Article constitutes a contract between the corporation and its indemnified officers, directors, and members. No amendment or repeal of this Article that adversely affects the rights of an indemnified officer, director, or member shall apply to them for acts or omissions that occurred prior to such amendment or repeal.
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ARTICLE X: Committees

Section 1. The Chairman may appoint standing and special committees with the approval of the Board. These committees will have authority as granted by the Board.

Section 2. Standing committees include but are not limited to Scholarship, Election, Awards, Historical, Marketing/Communication, Reunion, and Personal Affairs.

Section 3. At least 120 days prior to the annual meeting, the Board of Directors shall appoint a Nominating Committee of three regular members who do not currently hold office. The committee will propose a slate of candidates for elective offices and inform the Secretary in writing 60 days before the meeting. The Secretary will then send the slate, along with an absentee ballot, to all regular members at least 30 days before the annual meeting, either by mail or email.

ARTICLE XI: GOMA Scholarship

Section 1. The purpose of the GOMA Scholarship Program is to provide scholarships to qualified applicants pursuing a Trade School, Undergraduate, or Graduate Degree, and who are enrolled as a full-time student (12 semester hours minimum) in the approaching semester. The scholarship is intended to support educational opportunities for individuals connected to GOMA, including members, their spouses, children, stepchildren, and grandchildren.

Section 2: Eligibility Criteria

- **Eligible Recipients:**
 - Open to current GOMA members, their spouses, children, stepchildren, and grandchildren
 - Applicants must be pursuing post-secondary education, including Trade Schools, Community Colleges, Universities, or Graduate Level Education.
 - Applicants must be enrolled as full-time students, defined as a minimum of 12 semester hours for the upcoming semester.
 - Must have a cumulative (unweighted) GPA of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.
- **Eligible Educational Institutions:** The educational institution must be accredited for the upcoming academic year and listed in College Navigator (<http://nces.ed.gov/globallocator/>) to qualify for the GOMA Scholarship.

Section 3. Application Requirements

- **Applicant Requirements:**
 - Applicants must complete and sign the official scholarship application. Applicants must ensure that sponsor information is complete, accurate, and signed. If the applicant is both the student and the membership sponsor, the applicant must complete both sections as "self."
 - Applicants must submit an essay. Length and topic will be determined by the board for that scholarship period.
 - Applicants must provide verification of school acceptance and enrollment for the upcoming semester.
 - High school seniors must submit their final high school transcripts. Current post-secondary students must submit their most recent semester transcripts.
 - All completed applications, along with required transcripts, must be submitted as directed by the application form within the application deadline.
 - Applications received after the submission deadline will not be considered.
- **Sponsor Requirements:**
 - All sponsors must be GOMA members in good standing.
 - Sponsors must provide all required sponsorship information on the application form.
- **Preliminary Approval:** If selected, an "Official Proof of Enrollment Letter" from the educational institution for the upcoming semester must be submitted to the GOMA Scholarship Committee. The "Official Proof of Enrollment Letter" must include the mailing address of the institution's admissions office.

Section 4. Scholarship Awarding

- **Scholarship Awards:** The GOMA Board will award one scholarship annually, typically \$1,000 but will be determined based on available funds after all applications have been reviewed.
- Scholarships will be awarded based on the best essay submission.

Section 5: Important Notices

- Any issues or concerns that arise outside the scope of these bylaws will be reviewed and addressed by the GOMA Board.
- All decisions made by the Scholarship Committee are final and may only be reviewed by the GOMA Board.
- All questions regarding the scholarship should be directed to the Scholarship Committee Chairman at scholarships@usmcgoma.org.

ARTICLE XII: Local Chapters

Section 1. The Board may authorize the creation of local chapters, which must comply with these bylaws.

Section 2. Local chapters must assign a Chapter Officers, and hold at a minimum a Chairman, Treasurer, and Secretary to operate the charter. These Officers will serve a term as directed by the Chapter Board, but not less than 12 months. Failure to maintain these positions will result in the revocation of funds and disbanding the Chapter, unless otherwise approved by the GOMA Board of Directors.

Section 3. Chapter Officer nominations will be submitted by the Chapter and approved by the GOMA Board of Directors with a majority vote at a scheduled meeting.

Section 4. Members currently serving on the GOMA Board may not be considered for Chapter positions. Appointed positions, such as the GOMA Membership Chairman may fill the Chapter Officer positions.

Section 5. Chapter Officers must be regular GOMA Members and maintain active membership for the entirety of their position.

Section 6. Local Chapters may not award honorary memberships but may nominate individuals for honorary memberships to the GOMA Board.

Section 7. Chapters will be audited annually, typically in the month of September, to ensure compliance and eligibility.

Section 8. Chapters will remit all membership dues to the Association and may retain funds raised locally. During the annual audit, Chapters will transfer 20 percent of their funds to the Association, which will be applied to the Scholarship fund.

Section 9. Chapters must maintain a membership roster of at least 15 members.

Section 10. At least one Chapter Officer must be present or dial in to the monthly meeting. Excessive absences without prior coordination with the GOMA Board may result in revocation.

Section 11. Upon activation of a local Chapter, the Chapter will have 60 days to become compliant with its membership requirement. Once the requirement is met, the Association will award \$500 to the Chapter to initiate activities aligned with article II of these bylaws. A Chapter must maintain a minimum of \$100 in their general fund, unless it's used to generate more funds, with GOMA Board approval.

Section 12. A Chapter's charter may be revoked by the Board for non-compliance with the bylaws by a majority vote. Funds accumulated by a revoked Chapter will be transferred to the Association's general fund.

ARTICLE XIII: Amendments

Section 1. These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the membership, provided the proposed amendment is sent to members at least 30 days prior to the meeting.

ARTICLE XIV: Flags

Section 1. The American and U.S. Marine Corps flags shall be displayed at all in-person Association meetings.

ARTICLE XV: Dissolution

Section 1. Upon dissolution, after discharging all liabilities, any remaining assets will be donated to the Marine Corps Association Foundation.

Revised on July 1, 2026, by the Board of Directors.



Obed G. Macias
Chairman
USMC GOMA