

**ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED PALEONTOLOGICAL SCIENCES (AAPS)
BYLAWS**

As Amended and Approved by the Membership September 12, 2021

ARTICLE I. NAME

The Association shall be known as "The Association of Applied Paleontological Sciences" also referred to as AAPS.

ARTICLE II. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Section 1. Mission Statement

a. The purpose of the Association of Applied Paleontological Sciences is to expand scientific knowledge and public awareness in the field of paleontology through preservation and distribution of paleontological remains.

All materials collected for this purpose shall be obtained in an ethical and professional manner in order to preserve paleontological specimens otherwise lost to science by the destructive agents of weathering, and/or human endeavor.

b. The economic objectives of the Association's members shall always reflect the desire to meet both the research and educational needs of the scientific community and the interested public.

c. To support Paleontological Research through publication, Scholarships and grants.

Section 2. Non-Profit Purpose

a. This Corporation is a non-profit, public-benefit corporation and is not organized for the benefit of any person. It is organized under the non-profit public corporation Law of the state of Utah for public purposes

b. The Association is organized exclusively for educational and scientific purposes including making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law.

ARTICLE III. CODE OF ETHICS

All members of the Association of Applied Paleontological Sciences will:

1) Strive to stay informed of and comply with International, National, State/Provincial and Local regulations pertaining to collecting activities and general business practices.

2) Obtain permission from land owners or governmental authorities to gain access to collecting sites.

3) Assure that all lands, properties, flora and fauna are left without damage to property or ecology as a result of collecting activities.

4) Require that fossil materials received from outside collectors are obtained in compliance with the above collecting guidelines set forth by the Association.

- 5) Report to scientific experts any significant discoveries of scientific or public interest.
- 6) Strive to place specimens of unique scientific interest into responsible hands for study, research, and preservation.
- 7) Make no misrepresentation as to identity, locality, age, formation, repairs, or restoration of paleontological specimens.
- 8) Members will strive for best business practices in all aspects of business dealings with customers and other AAPS members in a fair and honest manner and maintaining a good credit standing. AAPS encourages members to follow good ethics but cannot act as a resource to settle disputes between said members or disputes involving customers.
- 9) Encourage good relations and cooperation with agencies, institutions, and organizations actively involved in paleontological pursuits.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

A) A Business Member shall be defined as a declared, legitimate business which derives a significant portion of its income from the sale of paleontology related materials and /or services. All Business Members and Company Employees must agree to abide by the AAPS Code of Ethics. Business Members and Employees are voting members.

1) Admittance to Business Membership

- a) All prospective Business Members must be approved by the AAPS Executive Board by a simple majority vote.
- b) Membership dues must be paid annually.
- c) Prospective Business Members must complete information forms supplied by AAPS.
- d) Business Membership Dues are \$65.00 annually
- e) Additional Employees Dues are \$15.00 annually

B) A General Member shall be defined as anyone at least 18 years old with an interest in the paleontological sciences that is not a business owner, academic paleontologist or student. All General Members and Family Members, must agree to abide by the AAPS Code of Ethics. General Members and Family Members are voting members.

1) Admittance to General Membership

- a) All prospective Family Members must be approved by the AAPS Executive Board by a simple majority vote.
- b) Membership dues must be paid annually.
- c) Prospective General Members must complete information forms supplied by AAPS.
- d) General Membership Dues are \$45.00 annually.

e) Additional Family Membership Dues are \$15.00 annually (Not including youth)

C) An Associate Member shall be defined as any member of the scientific community (professional paleontologist and students) with an active interest in cooperation with scientific commercial collectors for the purpose of advancing the science of paleontology. All Associate Members must agree to abide by the AAPS Code of Ethics. Associate Members are not voting members.

1) Admittance to Associate Membership

a) All prospective Associate Members must be approved by the AAPS Executive Board, by a simple majority vote.

b) Prospective Associate Members must complete information forms supplied by AAPS.

c) Students must submit a photocopy of their Student ID annually to maintain their membership.

d) There shall be no annual dues for Associate Membership, Associate Membership is non-voting.

D) An Honorary Member shall be defined as an individual once engaged in the sale and distribution of paleontological remains, whom no longer relies upon the sale of fossils for full financial support. All Honorary Members must agree to abide by the AAPS Code of Ethics. Honorary Members are voting members.

1) Admittance to Honorary Membership

a) All prospective Honorary Members must be approved by a simple majority vote taken by ballot of AAPS Members at or before the Annual Meeting.

b) Honorary Members must complete information forms supplied by AAPS

c) Honorary Membership is a voting Membership with no annual dues.

E) A Club Membership shall be defined as an existing organization with an interest in paleontology, geology or public lands rights. All Club Memberships and Club Members must agree to abide by the AAPS Code of Ethics. Club Memberships and Club Members are voting members.

1) Admittance to Club Membership

a) All prospective Club Memberships must be approved by the AAPS Executive Board, by a simple majority vote.

b) Membership dues must be paid annually.

c) Prospective Club Memberships must complete information forms supplied by AAPS.

d) Club Membership Dues are \$65.00 annually.

e) Additional individual Club Member Dues are \$15.00 annually.

ARTICLE V. FUNCTIONS

A. Meetings

- 1) The Annual Meeting shall be held in conjunction with the Tucson Gem and Mineral Shows, held in February of each year. The mid-year meeting will be held in conjunction with the Denver Shows during September/October of each year.
- 2) Special Meetings may be called at any time by two or more officers.
- 3) Notification of official meetings shall be made in writing or by email at least two weeks prior to meeting date.
- 4) Executive Board meetings shall be held as frequently as is required to carry out the activities and objectives of the Association.
- 5) Increment of Income. No officer of AAPS shall take a wage for the execution of duties relating to the position of said officer. With exception that the Treasurer may receive a stipend approved by the executive board for data entry responsibilities during shows and monthly to balance the AAPS Financial Records.

B. Voting by Members

- 1) Each Member shall have one vote, to be cast by that Member.
- 2) Votes may be cast by secret ballot, show of hands, email or online ballot.
- 3) In case of a tie the decision shall be resolved by a consensus of the presiding officers.
- 4) Voting privileges are held by Members engaged under Article IV, section A, B, D, and E.

C. Election of Officers

- 1) Election of officers shall be conducted any time after the nominations are closed until the time of the Annual Meeting.
- 2) Officers to be elected shall be the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and eight Board Members, one or two of which may be designated as science officers.
- 3) The term of office shall be two years.
- 4) There shall be an election held every year for four (4) of the eight (8) Board Members, so that there is not a complete change of all officers during any one election.
- 5) Nominations shall be accepted from any member of the association in good standing
- 6) Nominations for all Officer and Board positions will be accepted until the first Saturday of January and may be submitted either by phone, in writing or by email to the Administrative Director.
- 7) Only nominations for a position that are accepted by the nominee will be included in the ballot.

8) Members running for and holding office must be current with their annual membership dues.

D. Executive Board

An Executive Board shall be established and shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer. In addition there are Eight Board Members, and the Junior Past President. The Executive Board shall be responsible for managing and guiding the activities of the Association. The executive Board will appoint an Administrative Director whose responsibilities will outlined in Article VI.

E. Dues

1) The AAPS shall collect annual dues of \$65.00 from each Business and \$45.00 from each General Member. These dues are to be used to carry on the functions of the organization. The amount of dues may be altered by the Executive Board. Failure to pay dues may result in expulsion from Membership by the Executive Board.

2) Both Business Members and General Members may add additional members to their membership for \$15.00 each. Business members can add employees and immediate family members. General members can add members of their immediate family only

ARTICLE VI. DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

The elected officers of the AAPS shall be the official spokespersons for the AAPS.

1) President - The President shall preside over official meetings and shall be responsible for the appointment of committees and spokesmen for special tasks.

2) Vice-President - The Vice-President shall assist the President and shall assume Presidential duties in the absence of the President.

3) Secretary - The Secretary shall be responsible for accurate minutes of official meetings and notification of meetings.

3) Treasurer - The Treasurer shall administer the funds and financial records of the AAPS. As of 2017, the treasurer must be proficient in the latest version of QuickBooks and Dropbox.

4) Board Members - shall be responsible for reviewing all nominations for membership and conduct preliminary research into current and pertinent legislative activities.

5) Administrative Director – Shall be responsible for the day to day operations of the association, maintain the association's websites, and receive all mail and payments to the association. Deposit checks and make payments as needed. Coordinate the logistics for the meetings, publications and newsletters of the association. Perform such other duties as assigned by the Executive Board.

ARTICLE VII. PROVISIONS FOR VOTING

Voting on any issue by members of the AAPS may take place at the Annual Meeting, at a Special Meeting (i.e. Denver show), by mail (either through the Post Office, or via Email), or by online ballot.

ARTICLE VIII. PROVISIONS FOR AMENDMENTS

Proposed amendments to these Bylaws must be submitted in writing to the Members at least two months prior to the Annual or Denver Meeting. Amendments must be approved by at least a two-thirds vote of all members voting.

ARTICLE IX. PROVISIONS FOR RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions shall be approved by a simple majority vote by the Members.

ARTICLE X. DISSOLUTION AND LIMITATIONS

Upon the dissolution of AAPS the funds shall be used to pay all debts and liabilities incurred by the AAPS. The remaining assets shall be donated to a specified organization(s) with the sole purpose of preserving the scientific aspects of free collecting of fossils and the recording of scientifically important specimens sold by the concerned commercial fossil dealers.

- a) Legislative or political activities. The organization of AAPS shall not use any funds for the political campaign on the behalf of any candidate for public office. The only legislative purpose of the organization shall be to help facilitate the unencumbered collecting and exchange of fossils.
- b) Operational Limitations. The organization of AAPS shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by any corporation exempt from U.S. Federal income tax under Section 501 (c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under section 170 (ch 2) of the Internal Revenue code of 1954, or as appropriate to county of incorporation.
- c) Liability. No director of the Association shall be liable for the acts, receipt, neglects or defaults of any other director, or for any loss or expense happening to the Association through the insufficiency of deficiency of title to any property acquired by order of the Board or on behalf of the Association or for the insufficiency or deficiency of any security in or upon which any of the monies of the Association shall be invested, or for any loss or damage arising from the bankruptcy, insolvency or tortuous act of any person with whom any of the monies, securities or effects of the Association shall be deposited or for any loss occasioned by any error of judgment or oversight on his part, or for any other loss, damage or misfortune whatever which shall happen in the execution of his duties of his office or in relation thereto unless the same shall happen through his own dishonesty, except as otherwise provided by law.