

# International Association of Marine Investigators, Inc.



## **An Oregon Corporation** **BY-LAWS**

### **ARTICLE I: Name & Objectives**

**SECTION 1: *Name-*** This organization shall be known as the "International Association of Marine Investigators, Inc." and is hereafter referred to as the "Unit". The name of the Unit shall not be used publicly by any Member, other than by the use of the membership card for identification purposes without the express written permission of the Executive Board. This shall not restrict the officers, agents or appointees of the Unit from using the Unit name in performance of the duties of their office or assignments.

### **SECTION 2: *Objectives-***

- a) Provide marine investigative training;
- b) Organized exclusively for educational and training purposes;
- c) Develop and disseminate educational materials to conduct marine investigations;
- d) Provide a forum for the discussion of marine investigation and related investigative activities and other topics of interest;
- e) Promote the application, prevention and suppression of the following, but not limited to:

- 2- vessel accident prevention / investigation;
  - 3- environmental protection;
  - 4- marine drug smuggling;
  - 5- cargo crime;
  - 6- boating safety issues.
- f) Encourage mutual cooperation between law enforcement agencies and marine organizations;
  - g) Focus on the needs of the marine community;
  - h) Unite for the mutual benefit of those persons who are eligible for membership as specified under Article II of these By-laws;
  - i) Accumulate and disseminate information of interest to all members
  - j) Eliminate all factors that interfere with the administration of justice
- Operate as a nonprofit organization;
- k) Appropriate no funding for political lobbying.

**ARTICLE II:      Type of Organization**

**Public Benefit to Members- The International Association of Marine Investigators, Inc., "IAMI", is a membership organization for Law Enforcement & Marine Professionals. IAMI supports various education and training programs to combat Marine Crime, Officer Safety, and other Boating Safety Programs.**

**Said organization is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific 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 corresponding section of any future Federal Tax Code.**

**ARTICLE III: Membership**

**SECTION 1: *Law Enforcement Membership-*** Those representatives of municipal, county, state, federal, national, or international law enforcement agencies who are full time salaried employees with peace officer powers or are engaged in intelligence gathering, United States Coast Guard officials, special agents of the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) and administrative officials of vessel registering or titling authorities shall be eligible for Law Enforcement Membership provided an application is sponsored by a Member in good standing and reviewed and approved by the secretary / treasurer as outlined in the units Standard Operating Procedures.

**SECTION 2: *Non-law Enforcement Membership-*** Those persons not covered under Section 1 (Law Enforcement Membership), including reserve, auxiliary or retired law enforcement officers, shall be eligible for Non Law Enforcement Membership provided an application is sponsored by a Member in good standing and reviewed and approved by the secretary / treasurer as outlined in the units Standard Operating Procedures.

Annual dues for non law enforcement member, except retirees, shall be determined by the executive board.

Annual dues for those members permanently from law enforcement and/or private industry shall be determined by the executive.

Non Law Enforcement Members shall have all the privileges of a Law Enforcement Member including voting and may serve as an officer as provided by the By-laws.

**SECTION 3: *Law Enforcement Agency Membership-*** Parent agencies of those memberships defined in Article III, Section 1 shall be eligible for Law Enforcement Agency Membership provided an application is sponsored by a Member in good standing and approved by the secretary / treasurer as outlined in the units Standard Operating Procedures. Law Enforcement Agency Memberships shall be non-voting memberships with annual dues as determined by the executive board .

**SECTION 4: *Honorary Life Membership-*** By a majority vote of the membership present at an annual business meeting, the Unit may confer an Honorary Life Membership upon any person qualified for membership who has rendered distinctive service to the Unit or its purpose. Nominations must be made in writing to the Executive Board at least sixty (60) days prior to the annual business meeting and specify the reasons for the nomination. All past presidents of the Unit shall become Honorary Life Members at the conclusion of their term of office. Honorary Life Members are considered as Members in good standing and are exempt from payment of annual dues.

**SECTION 5: *Termination-*** Membership in the Unit shall terminate (1) by voluntary withdrawal, or (2) if the Executive Board by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote, concludes that the Member has exhibited conduct inconsistent with the objectives of the Unit, or if it is determined the Member is or has been a member of any subversive organization as defined by the Attorney General of the United States, **or by a competent law authority**, or is unqualified to be a member as set forth in Article III, Membership.

**SECTION 6: *Application For Membership-*** All applications for membership shall be submitted to **“IAMI” Headquarters office manager.**

**SECTION 7: *Dues-*** Payable upon application and on January 1 for renewals.

Members who have paid the dues are considered "current" members in good standing. Members who are delinquent in their dues are placed in "inactive" status for up to 24 months. When any Member is in arrears with dues or other financial obligations to the Unit for more than 24 months, the membership shall be considered terminated by voluntary withdrawal.

**Any member who has attained the Certified Marine Investigator status also forfeits their Certified Marine Investigator status when the member is delinquent in his or her dues.**

**SECTION 4:**            ***Elections-*** Election of officers shall be held at the annual business meeting. The Nominating Committee shall present a slate of officers to the membership for consideration. Nominations may also be made from the floor. Only Members in good standing may be nominated and elected.

**SECTION 5:**            ***Vacancies-*** In the event a vacancy occurs among the members of the Executive Board between elections, the vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the President with concurrence of a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the remaining Executive Board.

**ARTICLE V:**            ***Duties of Elected Officers***

**SECTION 1:**            ***President-*** The President is the presiding officer of the Unit. As such, the President is responsible for the direction and coordination of the Executive Board and Executive Committee and shall preside at the annual business meeting. The President shall also be an ex-officio member of all committees, excluding the nominating committee. Within thirty (30) days following an election, the President shall make all committee assignments as established in the By-laws. The President may appoint Members in good standing to chair ad hoc committees as deemed necessary for the proper operation of the Unit. The President may require reports from each committee at the annual business meeting. In the absence of or in the event the President is unwilling or unable to perform the required duties, the First Vice-President shall assume the authority and responsibilities of the President of the unit as outlined in this section.

**SECTION 2:**            ***First Vice President-*** The First Vice President is responsible for the development and coordination of the annual training seminar and is the Program Chairman; appoints the seminar On-Site Coordinator; maintains the Standard Operating Procedures Manual and provides all new members of the Executive Board with an up to date copy. In the absence of or in the event the President is unwilling or unable to perform the required duties, the First Vice-President shall assume the authority and responsibilities of the President of the unit as outlined in Article V, Section 1.

**SECTION 3:**            ***Second Vice President-*** The Second Vice President is the Membership Chairman and is responsible for the appointment and coordination of Regional Representatives to promote the activities of the Unit and increase membership. In the absence of or in the event the President, & or First Vice-President, are unwilling or unable to perform the required duties, shall assume the authority and responsibilities of the President of the unit as outlined in Article V, Section 1.

**SECTION 4:**            **Secretary/Treasurer-** responsible for making all deposits and disbursement of funds as authorized by the budget, or the President, or Executive Committee; causes the minutes of each meeting to be recorded; and is the custodian of all records.

**SECTION 5:**            **Directors-** The Directors shall chair committees as appointed by the President and are responsible for any other duties as assigned by the President. The Directors of the unit shall have the authority to carry out and participate in the business of the Executive Board.

**ARTICLE VI:**            **Committees**

**SECTION 1:**            **Standing Committees-**

**A. By-laws Committee-** Maintains the By-laws; causes any proposed changes to be published to the membership in a timely manner; presents all proposed changes to the membership at the annual business meeting; and provides the Secretary/Treasurer with an up to date copy of the By-laws to be published and distributed in conjunction with the membership roster.

**B. Insurance Committee-** Develops projects and coordinates communication between the Unit and the insurance industry to encourage a better understanding of the industry's problems relating to marine investigations.

**C. International Committee-** Encourages new international memberships and facilitates the exchange of information regarding marine investigations internationally.

**D. Marine Industry Committee-** Develops, projects and coordinates communication between the Unit and the Marine Industry to encourage a better understanding of the industry's problems relating to marine investigations.

**E. Legislative Committee-** obtains copies of legislation, both federal and state, relating to marine investigative and boating safety issues; generates model acts for proposed legislation and distributes upon request; makes the President aware of issues which should be of interest to the membership; develops recommendations for changes to the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) stolen boat file.

**F. Membership Committee-** The membership committee will review all applications & forward their recommendations onto the IAMJ office manager; Determines the most effective means of communicating with the membership at large; solicits information for the association's newsletter; contacts and distributes information and other requested materials on a regional basis.

**G. Program Committee-** works with the On-Site Coordinator in selecting the hotel and training facilities; works in conjunction with the Training Committee in determining topics and instructors; develops and provides a seminar agenda to be published in the association's newsletter.

H. **Public Education and Training Committee**- Processes records of instructors, topics for each seminar and course outlines, provides seminar evaluation forms to the membership to be considered by the Program Committee in developing the agenda; assist at the annual meeting. Forwards appropriate training records to the Secretary / Treasure.

I. **U.S. Coast Guard Committee**- is responsible for communicating the concerns of the Unit relating to marine issues.

J. **Grants Funding Committee**- Is responsible for coordinating, researching/ identifying grant funding, preparing grant applications, & managing grants.

K. **Law Enforcement Committee**-address issues related to the maritime law enforcement community including; specialized training, equipment, and officer safety. Assist in maintaining the data base of secondary HIN numbers. Encourage mutual cooperation between Law Enforcement and the Private Sector.

L. **Past-Presidents Committee**- this committee will be chaired by the immediate Past-President with all other Past-Presidents as committee members. The committee will be advisors and counsel to the Executive Board and the Unit.

## **SECTION 2: Seminar Committees-**

A. **Finance Committee**- Conducts an audit of the financial records of the unit and renders a complete summary of all income, disbursements, and balances at each annual business meeting. A member in good standing other than an Executive Board member appointed by the president shall chair the committee. All supporting financial documentation for the audit shall be provided to the committee by the secretary / treasurer of the unit.

B. **Resolution Committee**- Receives proposed resolutions from the membership, determines if a resolution is the most appropriate means of communicating the Unit's support and/or concerns regarding issues with the marine and insurance industries; prepares those resolutions passed at the annual business meeting for the President's signature to be mailed within thirty (30) days.

**C. Nominating Committee-** Interviews those interested in holding an office in the Unit. Presents a slate of Officers for consideration to the membership at the annual business meeting. The Nominating Committee shall be chaired by the most immediate past President. In the event the immediate past President is not present, unwilling or not qualified, the committee shall be chaired by the most recent qualified past President at the seminar. If no qualified past Presidents are in attendance, then the current President will appoint a qualified member to chair the committee. A nominating committee member is deemed qualified by being an active member in good standing.

**D. Site Selection Committee-** Solicits bids from Members to host the annual training seminar; recommends the dates and locations for approval by the membership at the annual business meeting.

#### **ARTICLE VII: Meetings**

**SECTION 1: *Annual Training Seminar-*** An annual training seminar for the membership shall be held in January, February, March or April and be no less than three days in duration. In the event another month is considered, approval by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Executive Board is required. It shall be held in a location as determined by the Site Selection Committee and approved by a membership vote at the annual business meeting.

**SECTION 2: *Committee Meetings-*** The Executive Board of the unit and all standing committees shall meet the day preceding the annual training. After the election, the newly elected President may call for a meeting of the new Executive Board on the morning following the conclusion of the annual training seminar.

**SECTION 3: *Annual Business Meeting-*** The annual business meeting shall be held on the last day of the annual seminar.

**SECTION 4: *Mid Year Meeting Of Executive Board -*** The President may elect to call for a meeting of the Executive Board approximately six months prior to the next annual seminar. The President may also elect to hold meetings by telephone conference call or other electronic media.

#### **ARTICLE VIII: Administration**

**SECTION 1: *Governing Procedures-*** The presiding officer shall be governed by the rules laid down in "Robert's Rules of Order", most recent addition.

**SECTION 2: *Voting-*** Only Members in good standing may vote on any issue before the Unit and with no proxies or absentee votes permitted.

**SECTION 3: *Amendments-*** The By-laws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the unit members present at the annual business meeting. All proposed changes must be published and made available to all current members.

**SECTION 4: *Dissolution-*** In the event of the dissolution of the Unit, whether voluntary or involuntary, no member shall be entitled to any distribution or division of the remaining assets. Instead, after payment of all debts and obligations, in lieu of a court order, otherwise, the remaining assets shall be donated to a tax exempt 501(c)(3) organization named by a majority of the members attending the dissolution meeting.

**SECTION 5: *Fiscal Year-*** The fiscal year of the unit is hereby fixed to begin on August 1st of each calendar year and to end on July 31st of the following calendar year.

**SECTION 6: *Prohibited Activities-*** The unit is prohibited from engaging in any activities which would jeopardize its status as a **501(c)(3)** organization.

18<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2009

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Michael H. Smith, President

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Thomas L. Willis, Secretary / Treasurer