

GOLDEN HEART SHOOTIST SOCIETY
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA
BYLAWS

Updated October 25, 2016

Article 1

Purpose

The purpose of this Society shall be as follows:

To encourage organized shooting activities with a view towards a better knowledge of the safe handling and proper care of firearms, as well as improved marksmanship;

To establish a public development of the essentials of good sportsmanship, honesty, law observance and self-reliance;

To establish and support junior sportsmen for the purpose of carrying out the objectives of this Society;

To hold exhibits from time to time, where membership and the general public may within applicable laws, view, display and trade;

To promote the dress of the era, i.e.; hats, boots, leather gear and other costume accoutrements as described in the Single Action Shooting Society (SASS) handbook;

To promote and communicate the living history of the West, of early American History, including the Post Civil War Era through the Mining Era of the early 1900's and Cowboy history in general.

Article 2

Memberships

There shall be three classes of membership:

A: Members: Any person is eligible for membership in this Society if he or she agrees to abide by the By-Laws of this Society and makes timely payment of dues.

B: Endowment Members: Those individuals who qualify as members and pay a one-time fee for lifetime membership. (See Article 3)

Article 2

New levels of Membership:

- (1.) Sustaining: Life Membership plus an additional \$250.00. This membership level makes the individual eligible to purchase a silver rocker for his/her badge.
- (2.) Patron: Life Membership plus an additional \$500.00. This membership level makes the individual eligible to purchase a gold rocker for his/her badge.
- (3.) Benefactor: Life Membership plus an additional \$750.00. This membership level makes the individual eligible to purchase a gold rocker with a ruby accent for his/her badge.
- (4.) Endowment: Life Membership plus an additional \$1000.00. This membership level makes the individual eligible to purchase a gold rocker with a diamond accent for his/her badge.

Eighty (80%), percent of the income from these new levels would go to the Range Development Fund and the balance would go into the General Fund.

C: Honorary Members: Those individuals whom the Society, for some special service or contribution to the shooting sports by vote of the General Membership.

2. Every member of this Society shall be encouraged to become a member of SASS.

3. Every member of this Society shall be encouraged to become a member of the National Rifle Association. (NRA).

Article 3

Annual membership is January 1 – December 31st. Club dues are due on or before January 1 of each year. Dues may be paid in installments but must be paid in full by Cowboy Camp or June 1. (added March 27, 2018)

Dues and Assessments

- 1. Annual Membership dues shall be:

Individual	\$40.00
Individual and Spouse	\$60.00

Additional Family Members

Children through the age of 16 Free

Children ages 17 to 21	\$10.00
Children ages 21 and over	\$40.00 (Updated April 26, 2016)

2. Lifetime membership shall be four hundred dollars U.S. (\$400.00) for an individual. This amount may be payable in one sum, or installments of fifty dollars U.S. (\$50.00) payable not less frequently than quarterly. Lifetime membership may be extended to additional family participants upon the payment of an additional one hundred dollars U.S. (\$100.00) per member.
3. A member of this Society who is in arrears in dues by Thirty (30) days shall not be eligible to vote or to enjoy any of the other privileges or benefits of this Society.
4. A member of this Society who is in arrears in dues by ninety (90) days shall be dropped from the rolls and must re-apply for membership as a new member.
5. Special assessments can be levied by a majority vote of the members present at a regular business meeting, provided notice of such proposed assessment is mailed, e-mailed, or telephoned to all members in good standing ten (10) days prior to the meeting.

Article 4

Meetings

1. Business Meeting: The regular business meeting of the Society shall be held the last Tuesday of each month, except no meeting in May due to 'Cowboy Camp' and December due to the Christmas holiday. During the regular meeting those members in good standing that are present shall constitute a quorum. This meeting shall not be held at or during a shooting event. In the event that neither the President nor the Vice-President can be present to chair the meeting, the President shall designate a member in good standing as Chairman. This meeting shall be open to all Society members. All business matters that affect this Society shall be open for discussion. Exceptions to the scheduled business meeting may be made by the Executive Board, provided a ten (10) day notice is given to all members.
2. Executive Board Meeting: Executive Board Meetings shall be held at such time and location as designated by the Executive Board.

3. Shooting Events: Shooting events shall not be classified as meetings. Announcements may be made, but business shall not be conducted.

Article 5

Officers and Committees

1. The officers of the GHSS Club Board of Directors shall be three (3) members serving a rotating three (3) year term.
2. The Executive Board shall have general supervision, control and management of all activities of the Society. Any decision of the Executive Board may be reversed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of ballots cast by the members present at a regular meeting.
3. The officers of the Executive Board shall be President, a.k.a. Trial Boss; Vice President, a.k.a. Ramrod; Secretary, a.k.a. Telegrapher; Membership Secretary, a.k.a. Top Hand; Treasurer, a.k.a. Banker; Range Master, a.k.a. Range Boss; and Sergeant -At-Arms, a.k.a. Judge. These officers acting together, shall constitute the Executive Board.
4. The resignation of any officer will be presented in writing and may be accepted by a majority vote of the members at a regular business meeting.
5. A vacancy in the Executive Board shall be filled by Presidential appointment, subject to the approval of the members of the Executive Board, and the appointee shall serve until the next general election for that position. However, if more than two vacancies exist, new officers shall be elected at a regular business meeting of the society to fill the vacancies for the remainder of the unexpired terms. Should the offices of the President and the Vice-President become vacant simultaneously, the Executive Board may select from its members a President Pro-Tem, to preside over the meeting of this Society in order to elect a new President and Vice-President.
6. Nominating Committee: A committee of three (3) members, not currently serving on the Executive Board shall be selected by the Executive Board to seek out nominees and prepare a list of qualified candidates for election. This committee shall be appointed at an Executive Board meeting prior to the September business meeting, for presentation to the membership at the September business meeting.

7. Ad Hoc Committees: Shall be formed as required by the Society (i.e., Holiday party, Golden Days Parade, August shoot, Election, Audit, etc.) The purpose and selection of these committees and serving committee members shall be subject to the action of the Executive Board.

Article 6

Election and Terms

1. The election of new officers shall be held annually at the November meeting; with the term of office beginning 1 January.
2. All Executive Board officers shall be elected to serve for a period of two (2) years. The election of President, Recording Secretary, Range Master, shall be held in even-numbered years. The election of Vice-President, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Sergeant-At-Arms, shall be held in odd-numbered years. The SASS Territorial Governor shall be elected to serve a term of one (1) year, elected by process as stated in this article.
3. Officers shall be elected by majority vote cast by the members present.
4. Nominations shall be presented by the nominating committee at the October business meeting and additional nominations, if any, may be accepted from the floor at that time.
5. Official ballots shall be prepared under the direction of the Executive Board.
6. GHSS Board of Directors (BoD) Members shall be elected to serve a three (3) year rotating term. The Board of Directors shall not serve on the BoD and the Executive Board concurrently. Replacement of an outgoing member is accomplished at the discretion of the active remaining BoD members.

(Note: See Appendices to Bylaws, Policy Statements, regarding Absentee Ballots for information regarding same.)

Article 7

Duties of Officers and Director Members

1. GHSS Board of Director Members responsibilities shall be the club's official representatives to the State of Alaska serve as overall advisors

to the club leader/membership and serve to determine the ultimate finality of this club.

2. President (*Trail Boss*): The President shall preside at all meetings of the Society and of the Executive Board. The President shall be a member ex-officio of all regular and special committees and shall perform all other duties as usually pertain to the office.
3. Vice-President (*Ramrod*): The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in the President's absence or at the President's request. The Vice President shall also perform other duties as requested by the President. The Vice-President shall chair a By-Laws Committee and select two members to serve as part of this Committee. At least one committee member will attend all meetings of the Society to take a record of all motions made. The Committee will take the information from motions made at meetings and keep all By-Laws and Policy Statements updated for the Society. Each quarter, the Committee Chairman will report to the Executive Board and then to the membership at each meeting of any changes to the By-Laws and Policy Statements. The Society By-Laws and Policy Statements will be kept in an updated form at all times. The Vice-President shall be responsible for Cowboy Camp.
4. Secretary (*Telegrapher*): The Secretary shall conduct all official correspondence. The Secretary shall notify all members of Regular and special meetings and shall keep true record of all meetings of the Executive Board and of this Society and have custody of the books and papers of the Society, with the exception of the membership records.
5. Treasurer (*Banker*): The Treasurer shall have charge of all funds of the Society and place same in such banks as may be approved by the Executive Board. Such money shall only be withdrawn by check and for the payment of such bills as shall be approved by the Executive Board. The Treasurer shall keep an accurate record of all transactions and render a detailed report at any meeting of the Society when requested. The Treasurer shall submit an annual report at the regular January meeting of the Society, consisting of a complete summary of all expenditures and income.
6. Range Master (*Range Boss*): The Range Master shall have charge of the ranges of the Society, arranging and control of competitions and range activities including safety and arms instruction, with authority to appoint assistants from the members of the Society. The Range

Master shall be responsible for range safety during Society activities. The assistants appointed by the Range Master shall be Marshals and serve for a period of one (1) year, January through December. The number of Marshals appointed shall not be less than one and one-half (1.5) times the usual number of stages at the regular events of the Society.

7. Sergeant-At-Arms (*Judge*): The Sergeant-At-Arms shall keep order subject to the direction of the Chair, using Robert's Rules of Order as a suggested guideline, as indicated in Article 12.
8. SASS Territorial Governor (*Territorial Governor*): The SASS Territorial Governor, when elected from the GHSS, shall be considered a de facto member of the GHSS Executive Board. He/she shall have a vote on any decisions rendered by the Executive Board; however, in the case of the Territorial Governor simultaneously holding an office of the Executive Board, he/she shall have only one (1) vote. The Territorial Governor shall be the direct representative to this affiliated club on matters of SASS (Single Action Shooting Society) topics, such as, but not limited to; Territorial Governor's Conventions, State Championships, R.O. Program, SASS Wire, etc.
9. It shall be the duty of the officers to attend all regular, Executive Board and special meetings of the Society and are authorized to receive dues and membership applications.
10. Any office shall be considered vacant when the office holder is absent from two (2) meetings in any six (6) month period. Exceptions allowed as approved by Executive Board.
11. Membership Secretary (Top Hand): The Membership Secretary shall keep the records for all members, maintain membership roster (reflecting status/type of membership) and collect dues and forward monies to the Treasurer.

Article 8

Removal of Officers

1. Any officer who is unable or unwilling to perform the duties of the office for which elected shall notify in writing the President for replacement.
2. Any officer who is unwilling to perform the duties of the office to which elected shall be removed from office. In the event of non-

performance and upon the unanimous vote of the balance of the Executive Board, recommendation for removal from office of the non-performing officer shall be submitted to the membership at the next Society meeting. A majority vote of the members present at the Society meeting shall be required to remove the officer.

Article 9

Suspension and/or Expulsion

1. Any member may be suspended or expelled by a unanimous vote of the Executive Board. Charges against any member may be preferred to the Executive Board by any member in good standing. Charges shall be in writing, clearly stating the facts, accompanied by all affidavits or exhibits which are to be used in their support. Such charges shall be filed with the Secretary, who will immediately notify the President. The President will present the charges at the next Executive Board meeting. The accused may have representation at such meeting. A unanimous vote of the Executive Board shall be required for expulsion.
2. The accused may file an appeal for a hearing by the general membership within thirty (30) days of the Executive Board's decision. A written appeal shall be filed with the Secretary, who will, within forty-eight (48) hours, notify the President. The President will present the appeal at the next Society meeting. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members' present shall be required to reverse the decision of suspension or expulsion.

Article 10

Finance

1. The capitol of this Society shall consist of such property, including real property, by leasehold or fee title, which it may acquire and hold in accordance with the law, and such money as may be paid into the treasury of the Society by the members thereof as dues, fees and assessments, or received by the Society from other sources.
2. The highest amount of indebtedness or liability, direct or contingent, to which the Society may, at any time subject itself, shall be subject to the limitations of law and approval of the Corporation Commission of Alaska, and shall not exceed eighty percent (80%) of the assets. The asset value of real estate and improvements shall be the appraised value of the property.

3. No obligations and/or other encumbrances against the real property of the Society may be made without the approval of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the whole. Approval shall be done by ballot.

Article 11

Amendments and Policy Statements

1. Any proposed amendments to these by-laws may be introduced by any member at any regular business meeting.
2. Interpretation of these by-laws may be recorded by a Policy Statement.
3. Policy Statements may be executed by the Executive Board and approved by a majority of members present at any regular business meeting.
4. All Policy Statements shall be considered as part of the by-laws of this Society. Any Policy Statement may be recommended for rescission by the Executive Board. Such rescission must be approved by a majority of the members present at a regular meeting.
5. Interpretation of these by-laws shall be the responsibility of the Executive Board.

Article 12

Governing Rules and Restrictions

1. All Executive Board and Business meetings shall be conducted using Robert's Rules of Order as a suggested guideline.
2. All stages of all formal events shall be conducted to SASS rules.
3. Activities of the Society shall be restricted to areas designated for that specific purpose.
4. The Society shall not be used for the firing or detonation of such weapons described in Title II, Machine Guns, Destructive Devices and certain other Firearms; Sub-chapter B, Section 5845, Definitions of Public Law 90-816, known as the Gun Control Act of 1968; Paragraph (b), Machine Guns and Paragraph (f), Destructive Devices; or any other

weapon or device that violates the spirit of the Golden Heart Shootist Society. The above restrictions shall not be construed to pertain to those weapons described in Paragraph (g), Antique Firearms.

5. The above paragraph shall not prevent the Executive Board from granting permission for the demonstration of weapons deemed beneficial to the membership as a whole.
6. No shooting or gunplay shall be permitted during any meeting of this Society.
7. It shall be the duty of all members to acquaint themselves with the rules and restrictions of this Society.
8. Because safety and public image are of paramount importance to the Society, any violation of these rules or restrictions shall be sufficient cause to initiate expulsion or suspension proceedings as outlined in Article I of the Golden Heart Shootist Society by laws.

Article 13

Dissolution

1. Upon dissolution of this Society, any monies remaining in the Society treasury shall be donated to a non-profit organization or charity, after all expenses of this Society are satisfied. The organization to receive these monies shall be Nominated and voted upon at the business meeting held just prior to the dissolution. If dissolution occurs without prior notification, the existing Executive Board shall designate the receiving organization. Due to the nature of this Society, the National Rifle Association would be given preference.

Article 14 adopted, June 26, 2007

GHSS Official Trademark, Seal/Emblems/Logos

1. The Golden Heart 'Badge' shall be the official club seal/emblem to be utilized on all formal club letterhead, documents, advertising and/or wherever business is to be conducted in official manner by this organization. It shall also be utilized in a non-official capacity, such as;

Birthday cakes, gun carts, membership clothing/apparel/equipment, badge/hat/lapel pins and as found appropriate.

2. The 'Big Bore' Bear shall be the official logo to be utilized in informal club documents, advertising and/or wherever club events are to be conducted by this organization. It may also be utilized in semi-official capacity, such as: clothing/apparel/equipment, in-house flyers, hat/lapel pins and as deemed proper.
3. All future GHSS trademark seals, emblems, brands, logos and all such devices shall require Executive Board review and General membership approval to be club authorized.

Policy Statements 2009

Range Fees:

Range fees that are collected at all regular matches of the GHSS shall be dedicated funds for the explicit purpose of range development, upkeep and repair. This includes equipment rental for developing and repairing the range; fuel to operate such equipment; lumber, metal, paint, hardware, etc., for stage development; new targets or repair of old targets; purchase or repair of operational equipment, such as timers or chronographs and other items necessary for development and safe operation of the range.

Absentee Ballots:

Absentee Ballots for election of officers shall be distributed by mail to all members in good standing who reside outside the Fairbanks North Star Borough. Those with multiple memberships (other family members residing in the same household) shall be sent sufficient absentee ballots for all members within that household. Members who normally reside inside the Borough, but have reason to believe that they cannot be present at the November general membership meeting, where the election shall take place, may apply to the Nominations Committee for an absentee ballot. These ballots shall be clearly marked "Absentee Ballot" and be accompanied by a cover letter instructing the member to return the completed ballot to the - GHSS Nominations Committee Chairman no later than the day prior to the November general membership meeting.

Specific instructions regarding the return of the completed ballot(s) shall be included in the cover letter; the completed ballot shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope with "Absentee Ballot" and the appropriate year printed on the outside of the envelope.

The sealed envelope shall be enclosed inside a separate envelope on which the member's return address, the GHSS mailing address and the official US Postal Service stamp shall be placed. In the lower left corner of this envelope shall appear "GHSS Absentee Ballot". Upon receipt of such mailing, the Nominations Committee Chairman shall open the outer envelope and extract the inner sealed envelope containing the completed absentee ballot. This envelope shall remain sealed and the Nominations Committee Chairman shall transport all such envelopes to the November general membership meeting,

where they will be turned over to the official tallying personnel. Envelopes containing completed absentee ballots shall remain sealed until all other ballots have been turned in and tallied; only then may the absentee ballots be opened and tallied.

Policy Statements 2010

Absentee Ballots

Absentee Ballots for election of officers shall be distributed by mail to all members in good standing who reside outside the Fairbanks North Star Borough. Those with multiple memberships (other family members residing in the same household) shall be sent sufficient absentee ballots for all members within that household. Members who normally reside inside the Borough, but have reason to believe that they cannot be present at the November general membership meeting, where election shall take place, may apply to the Nominations Committee for an absentee ballot. These ballots shall be clearly marked “Absentee Ballot” and be accompanied by a cover letter instructing the member to return the completed ballot to the GHSS Nominations Committee Chairman no later than the day prior to the November general membership meeting.

Specific instructions regarding the return of the completed ballot shall be included in the cover letter; the completed ballot shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope, with “Absentee Ballot” and the appropriate year printed on the outside of the envelope.

This sealed envelope shall be enclosed inside a separate envelope on which the member’s return address, the GHSS Secretary’s mailing address and the official US Postal Service stamp shall be placed. In the lower left corner of this envelope shall appear “GHSS Absentee Ballot”. Upon receipt of such mailing, the Nomination Committee Chairman shall open the outer envelope and extract the inner sealed envelope containing the completed absentee ballot. This envelope shall remain sealed and the Secretary shall transport all such envelopes to the November general membership meeting, where they will be turned over to the official vote tallying personnel. Envelopes containing completed absentee ballots shall remain sealed until all other ballots have been

turned in and tallied; only then may the absentee ballots be opened and tallied.

Range Setup

There will be established a monthly roster of club members that will be responsible for having five to six (5 to 6) stages ready for a club shooting date. The club members can also use the stage booklet of CAS stages that are set up for club members to use that cannot come up with stages of their own for the shoot that they are signed up for. There will be a sign up for each 2nd Saturday monthly and each last Sunday monthly shoot. This roster will be set up and on the club web page so that everyone knows who will be setting up the stages for that shoot. If there is no one on the roster for any one date, this will indicate that there is no shoot set for that date.

To help with this roster and the need to have a qualified individual ready for each of our regular shooting dates, May to October. The need for a Range Boss Committee can take care of much of this requirement. With the Range Boss having six to eight (6 to 8) committee members that sign up for a month; May, June, July, August, September, October....one committee member would be responsible for said month. Then there would need to be someone for November, January, February, March and April to set up shooting on the 2nd Saturday of each of those dates, weather permitting.

Having the Range Master Committee of six to eight (6 to 8) individuals would also make for better set up of the range on Cowboy Camp, the Summer Solstice, the Alaska State SASS Championship and Fall Round-up. There are always needs for help, moving equipment, doing last minute set up changes or just getting some of the side matches set up. Having the Range Committee isn't only better for the Range Master, it's better for the club in general....and safer for all of us when we have more than just two eye's looking at the range when we are setting up.

When it comes to safety....we also have need for doing RO classes and having a Range Committee help with the students when we give the class and it will spread out the class presentation to more than just one or two individuals. When more individuals give the RO classes, it also provides those individuals with a better understanding of the RO information and will make our club in general a better...safer place for all of us.

In general, this addition to the By-laws would put in place a Range Committee. This would provide the membership with an increased responsibility of setting up the stages for the monthly shooting that the club will have.

It will set up a committee to assist in monthly set up and a crew that is already in place for our main shooting events.

It will provide a committee to help in RO training and to get us other individuals to give RO classes.

All of this will help make the Range Master position in our club one that more wanted to hold and with the committee it will train and help to get others ready to take on this position.