



MASSACHUSETTS CAMERA NATURALISTS

OPERATIONAL POLICIES

Revised April 6, 2023

I. PURPOSE:

The Massachusetts Camera Naturalists is an informal organization dedicated to the appreciation of nature and the natural environment. Through its members, it seeks to promote...

- 1) ...a closer fellowship among serious nature photographers and naturalists,
- 2) ...a greater appreciation of nature through the exchange of ideas and techniques for nature photography and observation; and
- 3) ...the development and education of the general public in nature photography, the appreciation of nature, and the conservation ethic.

II. MEMBERSHIP:

There shall be three classes of membership:

- 1) Active members are expected to participate in the organization projects and activities, to show images at meetings, to demonstrate new techniques, equipment, ideas, etc. Members shall not charge the organization for a program. Active members shall pay full membership dues as fixed annually.
- 2) Associate membership is available to active members who cannot regularly attend meetings or otherwise take advantage of the full benefits of membership. Such a member, wishing to be classified as an associate, must send an email for such a change to the Treasurer. The petition shall be submitted within three months after expiration of the applicant's active membership. Associate members shall confirm annually his/her intention to continue as an associate member. An associate member shall have no voting rights.

- 3) Honorary membership is available only to those individuals who have distinguished themselves in the areas of nature photography or natural history. An individual may be elected to this class of membership only by vote of a majority of the active members. A nomination for honorary membership shall be submitted to the Chairperson and be reviewed by the Steering Committee. The nomination package shall contain information detailing the nominee's accomplishments in nature photography and/or natural history. If qualified for consideration, the Chairperson will then present the nomination at a subsequent meeting for a vote. This class of membership does not require payment of annual dues.
- 4) The Treasurer will maintain the official listing of the membership and shall make copies available to the Officers and Steering Committee at the Annual meeting and shall email a copy to any member who requests it after that meeting.

III. OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES:

- 1) The officers of the organization shall be the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer.
- 2) At the even-year Annual Meetings, a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and three at-large Steering Committee members shall be elected for two-year terms.
 - A- The Chairperson may serve only two consecutive terms in that office. All other officers and all members-at-large may stand for reelection at will.
 - B- If the office of Chairperson becomes vacant, the Vice-Chairperson shall serve as Chairperson until the next Annual Meeting.
 - C- The Steering Committee shall appoint an active member to fill any other vacancy that may occur and said appointee shall serve until the next Annual Meeting.
- 3) A Steering Committee of seven shall be composed of the four officers and three members-at-large, all of whom shall be active members in good standing. The Chairperson shall cast his/her vote only in deadlocks. Election of these officers and members-at-large shall be by vote at the Annual Meeting by a quorum of the active membership.
- 4) A Nominating Committee shall be composed of three members appointed by the Chairperson. Two of the appointees shall be from the active membership, the third from the Steering Committee.
 - A- This committee shall be appointed at least six months before the annual meeting at which elections will be held.
 - B- It shall submit its report to the Chairperson by a date that shall insure that it is included in the email that announces plans for the Annual Meeting.
- 5) All other committees shall be ad hoc and shall be convened at the Chairperson's direction. They shall stand as long as the original purpose exists.

IV. ELECTIONS:

Elections shall be held at the even-year Annual Meeting for all officers and members-at-large.

- 1) The Nominating Committee shall distribute its report to the members in the announcement of the Annual Meeting
- 2) Additional nominations for all positions shall be accepted as they may be offered from the floor at the Annual Meeting.
- 3) It shall be incumbent on the Nominating Committee or on an active member making a nomination from the floor to have obtained permission from the nominee prior to placing the name in nomination.

V. MEETINGS:

There shall be an Annual Meeting at which all principal business transactions shall be conducted.

- 1) The date for the Annual Meeting shall be conveyed to the membership by email at least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Meeting.
- 2) The disposition of business at meetings shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.
- 3) The conducting of any business at any meeting shall require a quorum of the active membership to be present. For purposes of this requirement, a quorum shall be defined as twenty (20) active members whose dues are current.
- 4) At the Annual Meeting, a financial amount agreed on by the members present, a donation shall be sent to the Massachusetts Audubon Society in memory of all members deceased in the year just ending. The amount of such donation shall be voted on at the Annual Meeting.
- 5) There shall be a minimum of two meetings/field trips each year; however, the membership's failure to hold such meetings shall not waive the meeting attendance requirements for candidates for membership.

VI. DUES:

Annual dues shall be at a rate voted by the membership and shall be payable at the Annual Meeting.

- 1) The Treasurer will send a reminder to those persons in arrears via email when possible. A reminder, either verbal or written, will be sent to those individuals not serviced by email.
- 2) If any member's dues are not made fully current within ninety (90) days after the Annual Meeting, his/her name shall be dropped from the roster of members.
- 3) A member dropped for non-payment of dues may apply for reinstatement by paying all dues in arrears and requesting reinstatement from the Treasurer.
- 4) Dues payable at the Annual Meeting shall be applicable only for the period from the Annual Meeting to the next Annual Meeting.

VII. NEW MEMBERS:

- 1) Eligibility: Persons proposed for membership shall have demonstrated the following qualifications:
 - A- A proficiency in natural history **or** in the photography of natural history and the environment
 - B- The active pursuit of excellence in their chosen specialties
 - C- A continuing willingness to share their knowledge.
- 2) Proposal for Membership: Formal proposals for membership shall be made in writing and shall contain a résumé of the nature photography or natural history expertise of the proposed person(s), together with any other relevant information.
 - A- A candidate for membership shall be present as a guest at a minimum of two (2) meetings, not including field trips, prior to being proposed for membership. In addition, each candidate shall present a representative sample of his/her work at two of the meetings they attend as a candidate. A candidate may be proposed for membership at their third meeting or field trip if the requirement for showing their images has also been met.
 - B- A candidate for membership must be identified to the Treasurer and/or Secretary with their name, address, phone number, email and whether they are showing images at each meeting they attend prior to being voted on for membership.
 - C- The proposal shall be signed by at least two (2) members in good standing (dues current) and shall be submitted to the Chairperson prior to the meeting at which the sponsoring members wish to have the candidate presented for membership.
- 3) The nomination will be read for consideration of the members present at the meeting. So long as a quorum is present at the meeting, a majority vote of the membership in the affirmative, shall be sufficient for the nominee to be accepted into formal membership.

VIII. SPOUSES

- 1) The spouse of an active member can become an active member on payment of the established dues. Spouses who are not members are welcome to attend any and all meetings as guests.
- 2) The spouse of an associate member can become an associate member without payment of additional dues.
- 3) The spouse of a deceased or separated member may acquire membership of the same class as said spouse by notifying the Treasurer by email of his/her intent and by continuing payment of dues as required herein.