



Charter for the Amarillo Balloon Association

Preamble

The Amarillo Balloon Association is an organization founded and sponsored by local balloon pilots, crew and enthusiasts. The group was established to offer ballooning benefits and services to balloon enthusiasts throughout the world and to develop a close relationship between the manufacturers, other balloon organizations and the enthusiast.

Article I - Purpose

1. The purpose of the local association shall be to promote responsible ballooning activities for its members.
2. Activities and operations shall be conducted in a manner consistent with a family-oriented, nonpolitical philosophy.

Article II - Officers

1. The Amarillo Balloon Association shall have the following primary officers: Director, Assistant Director, Treasurer and Secretary. Other secondary officers may be appointed as needed.
2. The first promotional year, officers will be appointed by the founding committee. The following years, officers will be elected by the general membership. Elections shall be held on the first month of the Fiscal Year for the organization.
3. The duties and responsibilities of the primary officers shall be as follows:
 - a. **Director:** The Director shall uphold this charter and the by-laws, conduct both business meetings and general membership meetings. She/he shall also coordinate all other officer responsibilities.

- b. **Assistant Director:** The Assistant Director shall assist the Director in carrying out the Director's duties. The Assistant Director shall also be responsible for promoting membership, membership operation, membership retention, and keeping members informed of the A.B.A. programs.
 - c. **Treasurer:** The Treasurer shall be responsible for the collection and disbursement of the association's funds and reporting the financial transactions to the membership on a monthly basis.
 - d. **Secretary:** The Secretary shall be responsible for the administration needs of the association, keeping minutes of meetings, oversees the position of membership officer, ensuring that a signed copy of the Membership Enrollment Form and Release of each member is on file.
4. The duties and responsibilities of the secondary officers shall be:
- a. **Pilot Liaison:** The Pilot Liaison is the central position for pilot affiliation with the association and its primary officers. The Pilot Liaison will be responsible for proper communications with regards to the safe operation of Hot Air Balloons in the Amarillo and surrounding area.
 - b. **Crew Liaison:** The Crew Liaison is the central position for crew and enthusiast members with the association and its primary officers. The Crew Liaison will be responsible for proper training and communications with regard to the safe operation of Hot Air Balloons and their crews in the Amarillo and surrounding area.
 - c. **Editor:** The Editor shall be responsible for assembling and organizing written, oral and electronic material for the associations' publications including the newsletter, monthly emails and press releases. All publications, whether written, oral or electronic, shall be subject to approval by the primary officers prior to publication.
 - d. **Historian:** The Historian shall be responsible for the preparation and maintenance of a written account of the history of the association, to include officer positions, activities and membership levels. In addition maintaining a library of all membership publications and outside publications with regards to any member, the association or any association based activity (e.g. Newspaper articles, photographs and T.V. Spots)
 - e. **Webmaster:** The Webmaster shall be responsible for assembling and organizing material for the association's website. All publications shall be subject to approval by the primary officers prior to publication.
 - f. **Membership Officer:** The Membership Officer shall be responsible for ensuring that all current members have a signed copy of the association's membership enrollment form and release form on file with the association's secretary. Each membership enrollment form is valid for one year and must be renewed each year and on file.

Article III – Association Banking

All association funds will be directed towards a single financial institution. Check funds shall require dual signatures of the Treasurer and the Director of the association. All banking transactions shall be available to current members at their request.

Article IV – Membership

Persons over the age of 18 may join the Amarillo Balloon Association as a full member. Minors (under the age 18) must have a signed consent form from a legal guardian.

Article V - Dues

1. The association is to be a non-profit organization. The association reserves the right to change membership dues as cost of membership increases or decreases. Dues are to be used to defray the cost of membership administration.
2. Membership enrollment will start on the 1st of the month in which the member signed up. There will not be prorated amounts for membership.
3. Membership fee schedule:
 - a. Individual Members (Crew and Pilot Status): \$15 per year due annually on the first day of the month in which the member signed up.
 - b. Family Membership (Pilot and Crew Status): \$25 per year due annually on the first day of the month in which the family signed up. Families include one Primary Member, one Associate Member and one child membership.
 1. Primary Members receive all publications from the association.
 2. Associate Members receive all the benefits of a primary member without the publications.
 3. Additional Child membership: \$5 per year, per child due with family membership.

Article VI – Publications

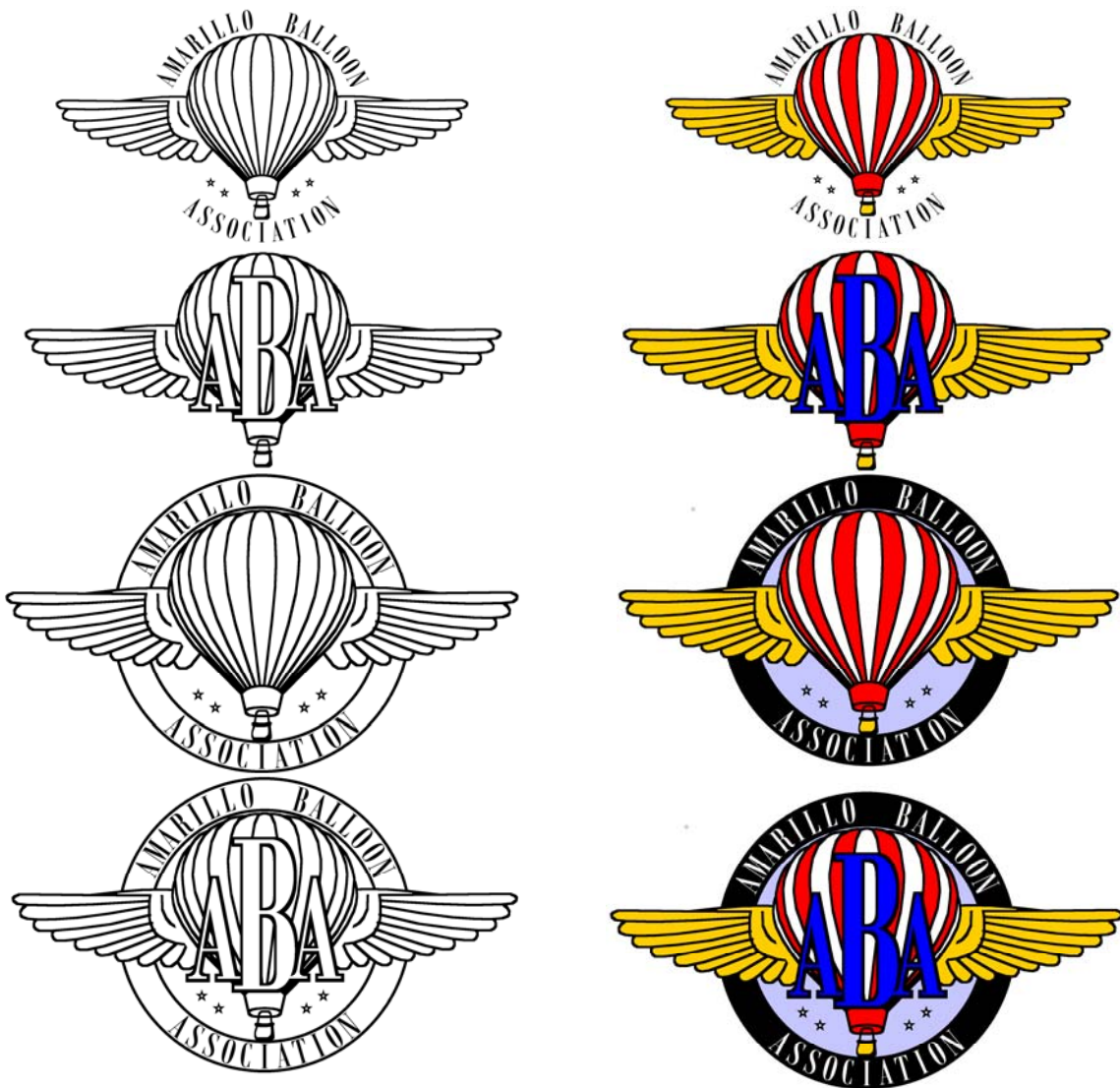
All material published by the association must be approved by the Primary Officers prior to publication.

Article VII – Activities

The Amarillo Balloon Associations events and activities may include family-oriented, safe activities that promote a positive image of the sport of ballooning and that appeal to its members.

Article VIII – Trademarks

1. The trademarks Amarillo Balloon Association®, A.B.A. ® and the following logos are among many trademarks of the Amarillo Balloon Association or its members. The trademarks may not be altered in any way and cannot be used in combination with any other words or graphics.



Article IX - Amendments

The Amarillo Balloon Association may amend this Charter at any time at its sole discretion based upon the A.B.A.'s review of developments and needs or because of conflicts with national, state, or local laws.

Article X – Disbursement of Funds

In the event of dissolution or final liquidation of the association, all of the remaining funds and property of the Chapter shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities and obligations of the association and for necessary expenses thereof, be distributed to such organizations as are organized and operated exclusively for charitable purposes and which qualify as an exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. In no event shall any of such assets or property be distributed to any director, officer or private individual.

Article XI – Disclaimer

While a member may be affiliated with the Amarillo Balloon Association, they remain a separate, independent entity responsible for their actions. All A.B.A. members and their guests participate voluntarily and at their own risk in A.B.A. activities. The association and its officers are and shall be released and held harmless by the member/guest for any injury, damage or loss to the member/guest or to his or her property which may result from participation in an A.B.A. activity. This means that each and every member and their guests have no ground for legal action against the Amarillo Balloon Association, its officers, or other members.