

Bylaws

The Order of MARS

Article 1. NAME OF ORGANIZATION

The name of the corporation is The Order of MARS. The acronym (MARS) stands for Mindfulness, Animal Rights, and Success.

Article 2. CORPORATE PURPOSE

Section 1. Nonprofit Purpose

The purpose of The Order of MARS is multifaceted, comprising religion, activism, and education for business, particularly direct selling. The goal for the growth of the organization is to have enough members interested in co-purchasing and co-owning land for building and maintaining an ecovillage commune.

Section 2. Specific Purpose

The Order of MARS shall organize three different activities: A) God-Good-Gold meditation sessions, B) Seven Spirits communal activities, and C) Shen Wu Dao martial arts and/or dance classes. When members arrive at a location for an event, it is hoped that people will take the time to greet each other with a bow and an embrace. Bowing and embracing are for balancing the Eastern and Western elements of relationship to foster mutual respect, connection, belonging, and community.

A) God-Good-Gold meditation sessions are meditation sessions that include informative presentations.

i. God – Learning about the theosophy in the book New Age Nirvana, the scripture of this religion, written by Mark Carpenter, or any other spiritual knowledge taught by Mark Carpenter.

ii. Good – Learning about ethical principles, specifically:

- a. animal rights and the plant-based diet;
- b. sexual morality, especially through the non-usage of pornography and choosing not to purchase sexual services through prostitution; and
- c. karma yoga, the practice of generosity along with being mindful not to blame or ridicule others.

Giving others a chance to speak is also an important part of the “Good” aspect of this meditation session. A chosen member can give a talk about what they think about ethics, to go along with the above three. Members can take turns doing this, so that a different member gives a talk each time there is a God-Good-Gold meditation session.

iii. Gold – Learning about direct selling (also called multi-level marketing or network marketing) with a balanced perspective towards it, while allowing the active participation of a direct selling business to go along recruiting efforts to acquire more members in the Order of MARS.

B) Seven Spirits communal activities are fun activities based on the theosophical concept of the Seven Spirits in the scripture, comprising play, compete, help, learn, achieve, journey, and rest.

i. play – this activity could be to play a game, or to do a skit (the word “play” can relate to theater too). Or you can watch a movie together.

ii. compete – this activity should involve some kind of competition that involves winning and losing. If the number of participants is large, people could be separated into teams or there could be a tournament of some kind. The competition could be a game, a sport, a debate, or anything that the participants themselves want to do.

iii. help – this activity should involve helping others. It could be to go offer food to homeless people, or for members to talk to each other about problems they are facing in their lives, offering support through empathy and advice. It is okay for members to be creative about what or how to do any of the Seven Spirits activities.

iv. learn – this activity could be to watch a documentary together, or to have members give presentations about themselves, to learn about each other. You can also invite a speaker to give a lecture about a certain topic.

v. achieve – this activity could be for members to watch an interview with a famous successful person, or to give presentations to each other about their goals, or to create plans together.

vi. journey – in the Seven Spirits theosophy, journeying is associated with the arts. This activity could be for art appreciation, or members could take a trip together.

vii. rest – this activity could be extended meditation, a focused relaxation session involving therapeutic relaxation techniques, or a nap.

C) Shen Wu Dao is the name for both the martial arts and the dancing practiced in the Order of MARS. The Chinese characters for the martial arts are 神武道, and for the dancing are 神舞道. Shen (神) means “god” or “divine,” Wu (武) means “martial,” Wu (舞) means “dance,” and Dao (道) means “path.”

The spiritual philosophy in the scripture is about the dualism of masculine and feminine, making it appropriate to have both dance and martial arts. Also, holism is a crucial aspect of the philosophy, which means that the practice of martial arts and dance should be holistic. This means that the combination of various styles is favored over mastering one specific style. Learning different styles surely would lead to a multi-cultural experience through these movement arts, which is very good. For example, a Shen Wu Dao martial arts pupil may learn Chinese martial arts along with Western boxing, or even some Kalarippayattu, the Indian martial art.

Article 3. MEMBERSHIP

There are two main types of membership of The Order of MARS: 1) general membership and 2) board membership. Along with these types, a member can join a committee. People who participate in the activities described in Article 2 do not have to be members to participate in them.

Section 1. General Membership

A) Eligibility

- To become a member of the Order of MARS, one must sign the Sprouting Declaration and the Agreement Form.
- A new member must become vegan with the understanding that animal cruelty by humans contributes to social Darwinism in human society, due to rules of spiritual governance like the Law of Karma explained in other religions.
- To become a member, the person must quit the usage of pornography and prostitution.
- The new member must give up any usage of illegal hard drugs.
- Cigarette smokers must quit smoking.
- Alcohol consumption is allowed but should be used in moderation. Daily is not recommended. Weekly is better. Monthly is ideal.
- Regarding cannabis, if a member resides in a place where it is legal, then it is allowed, except that it should be done in moderation. Daily consumption is not recommended. Weekly is better. Monthly is ideal.
- Psychedelics cannot be used recreationally. For the legal and ethical usage of psychedelics such as psilocybin, a member should consult a licensed facilitator.
- The new member must pass a written test having to do with knowledge in the book “New Age Nirvana,” the manifesto, and bylaws. The score must be 90% or above.
- The new member must become a customer for the direct selling company that is linked with the Order of MARS and separately file the paperwork for the membership of that.
- The new member must be at the legal age of adulthood. In Colorado, the age is 18.

B) New Member Ceremony - After the new member takes the paper test and receives a score of 90% or above, signs the Sprouting Declaration and the Agreement Form, a ceremony for the new member will be arranged. This ceremony will include the offering of the membership token which has the symbol for the Order of MARS on it. When the token is received by the new member, the new member can make a speech in front of an audience who can witness the ceremony. The member should prepare their own speech, which must include their vow to be

true to the Sprouting Declaration. Afterwards, there can be mingling with beverages and snacks. The ceremony can be done after a God-Good-Gold Meditation Session.

Aside from the ceremony described above, the new member can partake in an optional meeting with the founder (Mark Carpenter) which will be about confessions. The new member can discuss any wrongdoings they have committed in the past in their life, to repent and also to be forgiven, so that they can develop the “sprouting” mindset which is to become ethical. This discussion can also include that there is a need for individuals to defend oneself from evils in the world such as crime and exploitation. Also, this can include a discussion about the role of desire in life, and the difference between appropriate humor and inappropriate humor.

Along with the two things described above, the new member can also participate in a separate ceremony having using of the psychedelic substance psilocybin, under the guidance of the founder (Mark Carpenter) who will receive training and certification as a psilocybin facilitator. In the state of Colorado, psychedelic therapy using psilocybin is legal. This portion, along with the confession, is optional, therefore not a requirement for membership.

C) Member Rights

- A member has the right to participate in the growth of the Order of MARS through recruiting other members. A member has the right to receive leadership training for this endeavor.
- A member has the right to cast a vote in the decision-making process of the board of directors.
- A member has the right to become a board member through an election process, if they can earn enough votes and be approved by the board for their candidacy.
- A member has the right to send propositions to the board of directors.
- A member has the right to file a grievance through the grievance system of the organization.

D) Signing the Sprouting Declaration - the Sprouting Declaration will be signed physically with a pen. It should be framed to go on the wall of the member’s home.

E) Signing the Agreement Form - the Agreement Form will be signed digitally.

Section 2. Membership of the Board of Directors

Decision making for the Order of MARS will be conducted through a board of directors. Board members will be appointed through elections where general members can vote. Board members will conduct meetings to discuss propositions. Decisions regarding propositions will also be made through voting. Board members may also decide to classify propositions to require the vote of general members or to have the process be just for the board members. The founder, Mark Carpenter, will act as Chair of the board of directors and will maintain veto privilege towards decisions or proposals that do not align with the mission of the Order of MARS.

Article 4. LOGO AND TOKEN/SYMBOL (FOR MEMBERS)

Section 1. Logo

The Order of MARS shall have a logo to represent the organization which will be used where needed, such as its website, social media, documents, seal, etc. Every 15 years, the logo for the Order of MARS shall be changed democratically into a new one, based on propositions and voting procedures. The historian(s) shall document these changes. The first logo will be decided by the founder, Mark Carpenter.

Section 2. Token and Symbol for Members

New members of the Order of MARS shall receive a token with a symbol on it. This, like the logo, shall be changed democratically every 15 years through the decision-making process of the organization. The founder, Mark Carpenter, will decide on the first token and symbol. The historian(s) shall document these changes. The decision for the new logo and new token/symbol shall be made simultaneously. The symbol and logo do not have to be identical.

The token with the symbol changes every 15 years, but when it changes, people who already received the previous era's token should not receive a new token. They should keep the one they were given when they became a member.

Article 5. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The Founder as Sole Director during the Initial Stage

Mark Carpenter, the founder of the Order of MARS, shall register the organization as a non-profit in the state of Colorado. The founder will act as the sole director in this initial stage. The title of the founder as an officer on the board shall be Chair. The Chair oversees the governance of the board and the organization and leads board meetings. The Chair will maintain veto privilege towards the decisions made by the board for its propositions.

Section 2. Other Members of the Board of Directors, their Titles, and Responsibilities

In the future, more members will join the board of directors. There will be a Treasurer and a Secretary. The Treasurer will be responsible for keeping financial records and making financial reports. Financial reports should be openly distributed to all general members. The Secretary will be responsible for ensuring that the organization is compliant towards its own bylaws and government regulations. The Secretary should also record and distribute the minutes of a board meeting. Minutes should be openly distributed to all general members.

Section 3. Tenure

The tenure for the position of Chair, held by the founder, shall be 15 years. After the initial 15 years, a new Chair may be voted into the board, where the tenure will change to 3 years. The tenure for other positions such as Treasurer or Secretary shall be for 3 years.

Section 4. Meetings

A board meeting will take place every “week of weeks,” or 49 days. These are regular meetings, but the board can have a spontaneous irregular meeting when there is a need for one.

Section 4. Forfeiture of Director Position

If a board member is determined to be unable to perform his or her duties, then that person automatically forfeits his or her position on the board. The board must quickly make a temporary replacement with a different general member, then later hold an official election.

Section 5. Compensation

Officers of the board of directors will receive no monetary compensation for their volunteer work.

Section 6. Decision-Making

The board of directors can come up with discussion topics on their own to talk about during meetings that require decision-making. Also, propositions can be made by general members so that the board of directors can talk about it to make a decision. The decision of the board, if it is one possibility, must receive votes from general members of “yes” or “no,” if the nature of that decision requires such a vote. If the decision contains multiple possibilities, then the votes from the general members will be for choosing one out of those possibilities. The Chair reserves the right to veto a decision that seems unaligned to the mission of The Order of MARS.

Article 6. DONATIONS

Section 1. Donations are Optional

The Order of MARS will have a place on its website for making donations. However, donations cannot be strictly enforced. They must be optional to help the donors feel that they are free.

Section 2. In-House Donations Only

The Order of MARS will not attempt fundraising campaigns towards the public, or people outside of the organization. Monetary donations may only come from other members of the organization (or participants who have not yet become members).

Section 3. What to do with Monetary Donations

Decisions on what to do with monetary donations to the organization will be made through the board of directors. The decisions on how to use the funds must always align with the organization’s mission and be used with the intention to serve the members or the greater community, and for the growth of the organization.

Section 4. Member Donations and Non-Member Donations

Donations made by members will be made through the member portal. Non-members who are participating in activities such as God-Good-Gold meditation sessions can make donations, too. Donations from non-members will be made through the website.

Article 7. COMMITTEES

Section 1. List of Types of Committees

The committees in the Order of MARS will include:

- A) Eco-Village Committee
- B) Security Management Committee
- C) Gaia City Project Committee
- D) Historians' Committee
- E) Newsletter Committee
- F) Ethics Committee
- G) Conglomerate Committee
- H) Legend Committee
- I) God-Good-Gold PPT Presentation Committee
- J) Seven Spirits Communal Activity Committee
- K) Shen Wu Dao Committee
- L) Psychedelic Therapy Committee
- M) Animal Rights Activism Committee
- N) Pre-Proposition Discussion Committee
- O) Care through Counselling Committee
- L) Philanthropy Committee

Section 2. Security Management Committee

- Security Policy and Procedures
 - There will be a separate document for the security policy.

- There will be a separate document for the security procedures.
- In-House Security Only
 - The Order of MARS will have only in-house or proprietary security guards. This means that private security guards will never be hired from external contract private security companies. However, this rule excludes receiving professional advice from external consultants regarding security management.
- Eligibility for Guards
 - Guards must be official members of the Order of MARS. All guards who do security work must obtain the appropriate license such as a Guard Card for the location they belong in. They must also go through training, both initially and on-going.
- Compensation
 - Security personnel will not be given monetary compensation for this volunteer work.
- Work Hours and Shifts
 - A security guard on duty to guard facilities such as a meditation center or an ecovillage will not work more than 3 hours on a given day. Therefore, to fill each of the 24 hours, there will be 7 operating shifts for that facility. Each facility will have no less than two guards per shift.

Section 3. Newsletter Committee

Every meta-week (49 days), a newsletter will be made and distributed to the members of the organization.

Section 4. Ethics Committee

The Ethics Committee will be dedicated to resolving conflicts and managing complaints, to make sure that the organization is upholding ethical standards. Grievances from members will be processed through the Ethics Committee.

Section 5. Legend Committee

As the Order of MARS gains experience spreading its movement, it should move towards creating its own Multi-Level Marketing company, eventually having that be the business for the

“Gold” aspect of the God-Good-Gold movement. The nature of this MLM venture is to be financial products, such as retirement planning, estate planning, insurance, and investments. The name of the financial MLM company will be “Legend.” This is partly because it sounds like the word “legacy,” sharing etymological roots. Building legacies of wealth to pass down to the next generation of Marsists is important.

Section 7. Pre-Proposition Discussion Committee

For members who are interested in having a proposition to give to the board of directors, they have the option to discuss their idea with this committee as a pre-proposition.

Section 8. Reports

Each committee will write a report at the end of the meta-week (49 days) to summarize its activities, which will be made digitally accessible through the member portal.

Section 9. Heads of Committees

Each committee will have a head to lead its activities. The term for the head of committee will be 3 years. A new head can be appointed through an internal selection process within the committee.

Article 8. AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Amendments of Bylaws

Amendments may be made through a proposition sent to the board of directors. If an amendment proposition shows to be of value where if the amendment was made, it would benefit the organization and its members, or help the organization serve society through its mission, the board of directors shall bring it up in a board meeting to make the official decision about the amendment.

If a proposition for an amendment does not show to be valuable, or that it seems to be an attempt to drastically alter the directionality of the organization by an individual whose intention is or is like sabotage, it will not be discussed by the board.

Section 2. Amendments of Other Official Documents

Amendments can only be proposed to be made towards bylaws. There cannot be any amendments made towards the content of official literature for The Order of MARS such as the scripture or the manifesto.

ARTICLE 9. CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

Section 1. Purpose

The purpose of this conflict of interest policy is to protect this organization's interest when it is contemplating entering into a transaction or arrangement that might benefit the private interest of an officer or director of the organization. This policy is intended to supplement but not replace any applicable Colorado state laws governing conflicts of interest applicable to nonprofit corporations.

Section 2. Definitions

- **Interested Person:** Any director, principal officer, or member of a committee with governing board-delegated powers who has a direct or indirect financial interest.
- **Financial Interest:** A person has a financial interest if they have, directly or indirectly, through business, investment, or family:
 - An ownership or investment interest in any entity with which the organization has a transaction or arrangement,
 - A compensation arrangement with the organization or with any entity or individual with which the organization has a transaction or arrangement, or
 - A potential ownership or investment interest in, or compensation arrangement with, any entity or individual with which the organization is negotiating a transaction or arrangement.

Section 3. Procedures

- **Duty to Disclose:** In connection with any actual or possible conflict of interest, an interested person must disclose the existence of the financial interest and be given the

opportunity to disclose all material facts to the directors and members of committees with governing board delegated powers considering the proposed transaction or arrangement.

- **Determining Whether a Conflict of Interest Exists:** After disclosure of the financial interest and all material facts, and after any discussion with the interested person, they shall leave the governing board or committee meeting while the determination of a conflict of interest is discussed and voted upon. The remaining board or committee members shall decide if a conflict of interest exists.
- **Procedures for Addressing the Conflict of Interest:**
 - An interested person may make a presentation at the governing board or committee meeting, but after the presentation, they shall leave the meeting during the discussion of, and the vote on, the transaction or arrangement involving the possible conflict of interest.
 - The chairperson of the governing board or committee shall, if appropriate, appoint a disinterested person or committee to investigate alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement.
 - After exercising due diligence, the governing board or committee shall determine whether the organization can obtain with reasonable efforts a more advantageous transaction or arrangement from a person or entity that would not give rise to a conflict of interest.
 - If a more advantageous transaction or arrangement is not reasonably possible under circumstances not producing a conflict of interest, the governing board or committee shall determine by a majority vote of the disinterested directors whether the transaction or arrangement is in the organization's best interest, for its own benefit, and whether it is fair and reasonable. In conformity with that determination, it shall make its decision as to whether to enter into the transaction or arrangement.

Section 4. Records of Proceedings

The minutes of the governing board and all committees with board-delegated powers shall contain:

1. The names of the persons who disclosed or otherwise were found to have a financial interest in connection with an actual or possible conflict of interest, the nature of the financial interest, any action taken to determine whether a conflict of interest was present, and the governing board's or committee's decision as to whether a conflict of interest in fact existed.
2. The names of the persons who were present for discussions and votes relating to the transaction or arrangement, the content of the discussion, including any alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement, and a record of any votes taken in connection with the proceedings.

Article 10. YEARLY SCHEDULE

Section 1. The Meta-Week

The Order of MARS will use the meta-week, or 49 days, as the period for its board meetings, newsletters, and the Seven Spirits communal activities.

Section 2. The Beginning of the Year

The beginning of the year for The Order of MARS shall be the first day of Spring, or March 20.

Section 3. The Seven Meta-Weeks

There shall be seven meta-weeks, which makes a total of 343 days, for the activities of The Order of MARS. On the seventh week, the organization will not have any activities, then resume activities the next week.

Section 4. The Remaining Time in the Year

After the end of the seventh meta-week, which is February 26th, there will be a period of about three weeks before the new year which begins on March 20th. During this time, The Order of MARS will not do its regular activities such as God-Good-Gold meditation sessions. Instead,

there will be an annual celebratory meeting sometime during the three-week period. There will be a Shen Wu Do performance along with a party. At the location of the annual event, members must show that they possess the token given to them when they became members. This means that the event is members-only, unlike the other events.

Article 11. GRIEVANCE SYSTEM

Section 1. Mutual Respect

There will be a grievance system for the members of the organization. It is hoped for there to be mutual respect during the grievance process.

Section 2. How to File a Grievance

A member can file a grievance by contacting an officer of the board of directors, or a member who belongs in the Ethics Committee.

Section 3. Hearing and Procedures

After a grievance is filed, it will be reviewed, and the organization will decide whether to have a hearing about it or not. It must also be identified whether the grievance is towards a particular individual or towards the founder and the organization as a whole. The hearing will be held with three parties: a member of the Ethics Committee as a neutral observer, the grievant, and the respondent.

Article 12. MEMBER PORTAL

Section 1. Log-In Credentials

There will be a portal made for members who can log in to their portal with their own unique login credentials given to them once they become members.

Section 2. Functions of Member Portal

Here are the functions of the member portal:

- View documents such as financial reports and minutes.
- Submit a proposal.
- File a grievance.
- Vote on proposals.
- Vote on elections for officers of the board of directors.
- Read the newsletter.
- Donate and access tax receipts.
- Send and receive messages.
- Participate in the community forum on the portal.
- Join a committee.
- Have a member profile, view profiles of other members.
- View committee reports.

Article 13. OPTIONAL PSYCHEDELIC THERAPY

Section 1. Facilitator License

The Order of MARS will conduct its optional psychedelic therapy for members if and only if the facilitator in the organization is licensed for psychedelic facilitation. As of now, the founder (Mark) is still not licensed, so the option of receiving psychedelic therapy is not open yet.

Section 2. Purpose and Intent

Psychedelic therapy in The Order of MARS will always be for healing and spiritual growth.

Section 3. Priority

Psychedelic therapy in The Order of MARS will be given only to official members of the organization who have signed the Sprouting Declaration and have become vegan and have renounced sexual exploration by quitting pornography. Membership and general participation are a priority and a prerequisite.