

**Revised October 2014
CONSTITUTION**

Article I

NAME AND AUTHORIZATION

The name of this organization shall be National Big Hat Club as authorized by Article XVII Section 4 of the National AMBUCS, Inc. By-Laws.

Article II

PURPOSE

The Purpose of the Big Hat Club shall be:

1. Fun.
2. Recognition of Big Hatters' membership efforts in recruiting new members and retention of same.
3. Fellowship.
4. To encourage all AMBUCS to become Big Hatters.
5. Promote the principles of AMBUCS and National Programs.
6. Fun.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

Admittance to this club is restricted to those AMBUCS who have, by their own efforts, "secured three (3) or more new paid-up members in existing chapters or newly chartered chapters during any twelve (12) month period. Transfer members shall not be counted as credits. Transferring of credits shall not be permitted to allow an AMBUC to become a Big Hatter. The original sponsor on the application shall receive the credit, and may not be changed after it has been received by the AMBUCS Resource Center." (Article XVII Section 4 of National AMBUCS, Inc. By-Laws)

LIFE MEMBER

Once a Big Hatter, always a Big Hatter, unless one or more of the following occurs:

1. Drops from membership in AMBUCS.
2. Sends a letter of resignation in the Big Hat Club to the National Office of AMBUCS.
3. Non-payment of dues as advised by treasurer of home chapter.

REINSTATEMENT

Upon being transferred to, or being reinstated in a local chapter, the member shall notify the club secretary of former status, and request the secretary to advise the AMBUCS Resource Center and seek verification.

ARTICLE IV

ANNUAL MEETING

An annual meeting of the National Big Hat Club shall be held during the National Convention of AMBUCS.

ARTICLE V

HOW AMENDED

The National Big Hat Club shall adopt this constitution which may from time to time, be amended in whole or in part by a three-fourth (3/4) vote of the qualified delegates in attendance at any regularly scheduled session of the annual meeting of the National Big Hat Club.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I

OFFICERS

Section 1. Prerequisites: All Candidates for National Big Hat Club offices must be members in good standing with their local AMBUCS chapter and the National Big Hat Club, and shall have first served as Region Big Hat Director and successfully put on a Region Big Hat meeting to be eligible for nomination.

Section 2. Officers shall consist of a National Big Hat President, National Big Hat Vice President, and National Big Hat Secretary-Treasurer.

Section 3. Duties of President: It shall be the duty of the President to:

- a. Preside at the National Big Hat Banquet at the National Convention. Preside at annual board of directors meeting, annual business meeting, and any other meetings of the National Big Hat Club, whether special, annual, or otherwise.
- b. Appoint the nominating committee as provided in Article II. Section 1 of these By-Laws.
- c. Provide a Big Hat page for each issue of the AMBUC magazine to promote Big Hat members, when appropriate.
- d. Attend National AMBUCS Midwinter board meeting.

- e. Prepare and submit proposed operating budget for upcoming fiscal year, including all requested travel allowances for National Officers. All expenditures must first be approved by a majority of those assembled at the annual meeting of the National Big Hat Club. Should funds remain at the end of the fiscal year, after all expenses have been paid, these funds **MAY** be donated to the AMBUC National Living Endowment Fund, or such other cause as the membership may select, by majority vote of those assembled at the annual meeting of the National Big Hat Club.

Section 4. Duties of the National Big Hat Vice President:

- a. Appoint such deputies as necessary to properly perform the following duties during the annual meeting of the National Big Hat club:
- b. Post deputies at the door to check credentials of all wishing to attend the annual meeting or any other Big Hat function. Only Big Hatters in good standing are to be admitted.
- c. Report any late arrivals to the presiding officer.
- d. Collect all fines as levied and turn the collected fine monies over to the National Big Hat Secretary Treasurer.
- e. Report any absentees, all Big Hatters out of uniform, and contribute to the general confusion and disorder.

Section 5. Duties of the National Big Hat Secretary-Treasurer:

- a. Work with the National Office to make sure billing of invoices are done by November 15th for each Big Hat member as shown on the June 1st national membership report and mail a second billing by February 15th to each AMBUC chapter that has not paid the first billing as prescribed in Article III, Section 1 of these By-Laws.
- b. Within 60 days of a newly chartered AMBUC chapter being added to the national membership report, mail a billing to that chapter for each Big Hat member and mail a second billing to the chapter that has not paid the first billing within ninety (90) days as prescribed in Article III,
- c. Report to those assembled at the annual meeting of the National Big Hat Club all AMBUC Big Hat clubs that are in arrears.
- d. Deposit all Big Hat funds in the National Big Hat money market checking account currently on deposit through a designated financial institution, with a signature card signed by the National Big Hat Secretary-Treasurer and the National Big Hat President. All disbursements from this account shall be by check, signed by the National Big Hat Secretary-Treasurer and by the National Big Hat President.
- e. Maintain an ongoing record of all eligible candidates for National Big Hat Officers, for use by the nominating committee.
- f. Records of the total receipts and disbursements shall be prepared by the time of the annual meeting of the National Big Hat Club for review by a review committee consisting of the Past National Big Hat Presidents in attendance at the National Convention of AMBUCS. The most immediate Past National Big Hat President in attendance shall chair this committee.
- g. This office to be bonded. Bond fee to be paid by National Big Hat Club.

ARTICLE II

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 1. Nominating Committee: Nominations for National Big Hat President, National Big Hat Vice President, and National Big Hat Secretary-Treasurer may be made by the nominating committee consisting of the Past National Big Hat Presidents in attendance at the annual meeting of the National Big Hat Club. The most immediate Past National Big Hat President in attendance shall chair this committee.

Section 2. Nominations: The nominating committee may nominate one or more candidates for each office and shall make its report at the annual meeting of the National Big Hat Club. Additional nominations may be made from the floor following the report of the nominating committee. A written vote will be taken on the nominations made and the candidate receiving the greatest number of votes will be declared elected.

Section 3. Term of office: All elected officers shall serve for one (1) year, or until a successor is duly qualified and elected, unless sooner removed from office.

Section 4. Removal from office: Any elected officer may be removed from office only for good cause shown and only by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the National Board of Directors of the National Big Hat Club in attendance at any regular or special meeting. Meeting may be by email correspondence.

Section 5. Vacancy in office: The National Board of Directors of the National Big Hat Club shall fill all vacancies in the elective offices between Annual Meetings of the National Big Hat Club, except that in the event of a vacancy in the office of National Big Hat President, the National Big Hat Vice President shall become the National Big Hat President, whereupon a new National Big Hat Vice President shall be appointed by the National Board of Directors of the National Big Hat Club.

Section 6. Board of Directors: The voting members of the Board of Directors of the National Big Hat Club shall consist of the current National Big Hat President, the current National Big Hat Vice President, the current National Big Hat Secretary-Treasurer, all Region Big Hat Directors, and all Past National Big Hat Presidents.

Section 7. Compensation: All members of the National Board of Directors of the National Big Hat Club shall serve without compensation. However, reasonable allowance for travel, lodging, and incidental expenses for National Officers shall be allowed as proposed and approved in annual budget resolution.

Section 8. Meetings of the Board of Directors: An annual meeting of the National Board of Directors of the National Big Hat Club shall be held during the AMBUCS National Convention prior to the annual meeting of the National Big Hat Club.

Section 9. Special Meetings of the Board of Directors: Special meetings of the National Board of Directors of the National Big Hat Club may be called by the National Big Hat President or by any two (2) members of the National Board of Directors. Such meeting may be held at a time and place designated in the notice of special meeting and such meetings may be held by means of remote communication, including telephone conferencing, video conferencing, the internet, electronic mail transmission, facsimile, or any other electronic transmission.

Section 10. Notice of Special Meetings of the Board of Directors: Notice of any special meeting of the board of directors shall be delivered to each member eligible to vote at such meeting at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to such meeting by personal delivery, mail, or by electronic transmission, including but not limited to, electronic mail, voice mail, facsimile, and electronic posting. If mailed, notice shall be deemed delivered when deposited in the United States mail. If notice is given by facsimile or electronic mail, it shall be deemed delivered when sent to the facsimile number of the member or the e-mail address of the member that appears in the records at the National AMBUCS Resource Center.

Section 11. Quorum: A quorum shall consist of two (2) elected officers, three (3) Region Big Hat Directors, and three (3) Past National Big Hat Presidents. If a quorum is not present at the meeting, then the majority of the members present may adjourn the meeting from time to time without further notice.

ARTICLE III

DUES

Section 1. Existing Big Hat Clubs: Each member of the Big Hat Club shall pay dues of \$10.00 annually. A late fee of \$2.00 per member will be assessed if payment is not received by February 15th of the year billed.

Section 2. Newly Chartered Big Hat Clubs: Each member of a newly chartered Big Hat Club shall pay dues based on the first time the club appears on the National membership reports as outlined below. A late fee shall be assessed if payment is not received within ninety (90) days of the first billing as prescribed below.

	per member	per member
Date of First Appearance;	First billing	Late Fee
November, December, January	10.00	2.00
February, March, April	7.50	1.50
May, June, July	5.00	1.00
August, September, October	2.50	.50

ARTICLE IV

CLUBS IN ARREARS

Any Big Hat member from a chapter not in good standing with the National Big Hat Club shall pay only personal dues in order to be admitted to the annual meeting of the National Big Hat Club.

ARTICLE V

PENALTIES

No penalty or fine shall be levied or collected at any Big Hat Meeting in excess of \$2.00 from any Big Hat member in attendance. This fine shall not be collected more than five times from any member for a total of \$10.00. This is in addition to Article IV of these By-Laws (personal dues paid in order to attend the National Big Hat Club annual meeting). Fines may be assessed for any reason deemed appropriate by any member in attendance.

ARTICLE VI

VOTING

Any Big Hat Member in good standing when in attendance at any Big Hat Meeting shall be entitled to one (1) vote and one (1) vote only. A poll tax of \$2.00 shall accompany each ballot at the annual meeting of the National Big Hat Club.

ARTICLE VII

REGION BIG HAT DIRECTOR

A Region Big Hat Director shall be elected at the Spring Region Convention each year and will take office the following June 1 for a period of one (1) year. The prerequisite for Region Big Hat Director is the individual must have held the office of President of a local Big Hat Club. The director's duties shall be to promote Big Hat activities in the region and be responsible for all Big Hat Meetings at the Spring Region Convention. The Director also shall serve on the National Board of Directors of the National Big Hat Club and as a Sheriff at the annual meeting of the National Big Hat Club.

ARTICLE VIII

WEARING OF BIG HATS

The badge of recognition shall be an official western style Big Hat with three (3) or more stars and a membership card. Big Hats must be worn at the Region Big Hat Meeting, the National Big Hat Meeting, and any other regular or irregular meeting sponsored by the Big Hatters.

ARTICLE IX

AWARDS

The following awards shall be presented each year at the annual meeting of the National Big Hat Club or during the National Awards portion of the convention.

1. A plaque shall be awarded to the Big Hat Member securing the most new members during the period of June 1 to May 31 preceding the AMBUCS National Convention.
2. A banner medallion shall be awarded to the Chapter having the most new or additional Big Hat members during the period of June 1 to May 31 preceding the AMBUCS National Convention.
3. Any other awards as desired by the National Officers, any cost of which shall be included in the annual proposed budget.

The Big Hat Secretary-Treasurer shall order such awards each year from the AMBUCS Resource Center and shall also order the western style black Big Hat and plaque for the retiring National Big Hat President.

ARTICLE X

HOW AMENDED

The National Big Hat Club shall adopt By-Laws which may, from time to time, be amended in whole or in part. Adoption and amendment of these By-Laws shall be by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the qualified delegates in attendance at any regularly scheduled session of the annual meeting of the National Big Hat Club as called for in Article IV of the Constitution of the National Big Hat Club.

**MODEL MEETING AGENDA FOR
BIG HAT BANQUET**

- 7:00am Meal Served
- 7:20am Call to Order by Presiding Officer
Invocation
Pledge of Allegiance
- 7:25am Appointment of Sgt. at Arms (or Sheriff) and Deputy
Instructions to Sheriff on fines.
- 7:30am Announcements
Introduce Nominating Committee
- 7:35am Ask for additional nominations from the floor, close nominations and instruct committee to prepare ballots for election later.
- 7:38am Big Hat Stand Down. Ask all Big Hatters to stand, then ask those with only 3 stars to be seated, then those with only 4 stars, then 5, etc., etc., until the last Big Hatter standing is given a round of applause for having the hat with the most stars.
- 7:44am National Big Hat report.
- 7:48am Branding Time or Spring Round Up Promotion. Encourage Big Hatters present to begin membership promotion in their own chapter before the end of Branding Time to earn spurs for hats.
- 7:54am Big Hat Auction or other function.
- 8:24am Sheriff's report. Request Sheriff and deputy report on money collected and request any additional information from Big Hatters present on activities deserving a fine. Fine anyone giving such a report for squealing. Entertain motion from the floor for donation of fines collected to Living Endowment Fund.
- 8:26am Nominating speeches for candidates for office (2 min. each) and election of new National officers. A nomination fee of \$100.00 shall be paid by each nominee for National Big Hat Office.
- 8:28am Adjourn.

*** Times shown are a guide line only.