

VMFA-251 “Thunderbolt” ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I: NAME AND PURPOSE OF THE ASSOCIATION. This ASSOCIATION shall be called the VMFA-251 “Thunderbolt” Association and the purpose shall be to promote the history of the squadron and the men and women who served under its colors, to perpetuate their memory, to sponsor a Scholarship Program for the descendants of relatives of those who have served with the squadron from its activation in 1941 to the present, and to hold regular reunions.

ARTICLE II: MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION. Membership of this Association shall consist of the following categories.

Members are those who served with VMFA-251 and prior designations VMO-251, VMA-251, and VMF-251 for any period from its activation December 1, 1941 to the present and have maintained their membership by paying annual dues.

Associate Members are relatives and friends of those who served with VMFA-251 and prior designations VMO-251, VMA-251, and VMF-251 for any period from its activation December 1, 1941 to the present, and whose dues are current.

Inactive Members are former members and associate members whose dues are two years or more in arrears. Members may reactivate their membership by paying current dues, plus one additional year of dues. Associate members must pay current dues plus one additional year of dues.

Auxiliary Members include spouses of members and widows and widowers of deceased members who have requested complimentary subscriptions to the “Tbolter.”

Inactive Auxiliary Members are widows and widowers who have not requested complimentary subscriptions to the “Tbolter”.

Honorary Members are persons who have been recognized by vote of the Executive Committee for unusually valuable service in furthering the aims of the Association.

Voting rights at meetings and mail elections are limited to eligible members and associate members.

ARTICLE III: ANNUAL DUES. The annual membership dues are an amount consistent with the financial needs of the Association and as determined by the Executive Committee of the Association. Annual dues may be paid to the Association Treasurer prior to or during the month of December.

ARTICLE IV: REUNIONS. The Association shall meet biennially at a site selected for a reunion. Four years in advance, the **Time and Place Committee**, after consideration of recommendations by members and associate members, and in consultation with the Executive Board shall recommend a specific site for ratification during the general meeting.

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS AND DUTIES. Officers will be elected by majority vote of members and associate members at the reunion and shall serve for a term of two years. Elected officers shall serve until the duly elected successors take office at the close of each biennial Reunion meeting.

PRESIDENT: It shall be the duty of the president to give overall guidance to the Association; preside at the Reunions; appoint the Historian, Chaplain, Reunion Committee, editor of the "Tbolter" magazine and all other duties necessary to carry out the activities of the Association. Should a vacancy occur in an Elected Office, the President, in consultation with other officers, shall appoint a member or associate member to fill the unexpired term of office.

PRESIDENT ELECT: The President Elect will serve for two years as a member of the Executive Board and while in that office shall assist the President in any projects assigned, receive copies of all correspondence, be fully informed as to all plans, membership matters and finances, so that when the position of President is assumed, the affairs of the Association shall continue without interruption.

VICE PRESIDENTS: It shall be the duties of Vice Presidents to establish and maintain a vigorous program to enlist new members into the Association and shall appoint a committee to assist them. Vice Presidents shall assist the President in any appropriate manner. There shall be four Vice Presidents:

Vice President -- North shall represent the states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Ohio, Indiana and Michigan.

Vice President -- South shall represent the states of Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas, Texas and Oklahoma.

Vice President -- Central shall represent the states of Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

Vice President -- West shall represent the states of Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Nevada, California, Hawaii and Alaska.

The Vice President from the same geographical area as the President shall be designated First Vice President.

SECRETARY: It shall be the duty of the Secretary to take the minutes of the business meeting held at the Reunions, maintain membership lists, publish the membership roster, keep on file the committee reports, handle members correspondence, and reunion registration, maintain the record book of the Constitution, By-laws, and Amendments, and secure the Association files and other properties in a secure manner as to insure their permanence. The Secretary shall be authorized to purchase the necessary supplies to perform the duties of this office.

TREASURER: It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to deposit and record membership dues, deposit and record donations to the Association Scholarship fund and send a check to those selected for an annual scholarship, to issue quarterly financial reports, advise the Secretary when active and associate membership dues become past due, deposit reunion registration fees, provide the "Tbolter" editor with current membership lists and mailing labels, and pay the expenses of producing and mailing the magazine. These expenses will be reimbursed by the Association providing documentation and receipts are provided.

HISTORIAN: It shall be the duty of the Historian to gather and perpetuate the deeds and events of the unit, to preserve mementos in the archives and to continually search for materials, which will be made part of the permanent historical records. For the purpose of continuity, the Historian's appointment shall be permanent or until such time as it becomes necessary to appoint a successor.

VACANCIES: When the office of the President is vacated by death or resignation, the President Elect shall fill the vacancy until the next biennial Reunion and at that time shall begin the term of President to which previously elected. The office of President Elect will remain vacant until the next biennial election.

If the office of President becomes vacant by death or resignation and there is no current President Elect, the Presidency shall be assumed by the First Vice President.

ARTICLE VI: The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. The Executive Committee shall be comprised of the President, President Elect, Immediate Past President, four Vice Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and an Editor of the "Tbolter." The editor of the "Tbolter" must be a member or an associate member of the Association.

The Executive Committee shall seek to establish policies for the benefit of all categories of membership and shall be responsible for the administration of all funds accrued and due by the Association, and for the expenditure of such funds that may be necessary for proper support an administration of the Association.

ARTICLE VII: AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION. The Constitution or the By-laws may be amended after prior notice in the "Tbolter" by a two thirds majority of the members and associate members present and voting at any biennial meeting, or by a two thirds majority of the members and associate members voting by mailed balloting as may be provided for in the By-laws.

ARTICLE VIII: DISSOLUTION. The Association may be dissolved by a two-thirds vote of the members and associate members present and voting at any reunion after notice of such action has been published in the Association news medium. Any assets remaining after dissolution expenses have been paid shall be distributed only to a successor non-profit or other non-profitable organization or to a government agency or agencies.

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**VMFA-251 "Thunderbolt" ASSOCIATION
By-laws**

1. Meetings of this Association shall be conducted under Robert's Rules of Order.
2. A quorum shall be one half of the members and the associate members registered at the current Reunion present for voting.
3. Voting by mail.
 - a. A motion to amend this Constitution or the bylaws, or for any purpose that would be in order if introduced at a reunion of the Association, may be

introduced for voting by mail in the form of either (1) a resolution adopted by the Executive Committee, or (2) a petition submitted by at least 25 members and/or associate members who are eligible to vote in mail elections.

b. Any motion for voting by mail shall be submitted to the President, who shall supervise its administration and disposition.

c. Any motion must be received in time to be completely administered and the results of voting prepared for announcement not later than the opening day of the next scheduled biennial reunion.

d. In case a motion has been received and is pending, and a further motion is received, the latter may be put to voting simultaneously with the first received, provided that its purpose is compatible for voting with the first received. Any further motion(s), if compatible and timely received, shall be treated similarly.

e. The motion(s) shall be printed in the "Tbolter," including explanations and arguments for and against by members appointed by the President.

f. The President shall establish deadlines to assure timely actions, including publication in the "Tbolter" magazine of the motions with ballots; mailing of ballots by members; certifying and counting of ballots by the Secretary and one other member appointed by the President; and publication in the "Tbolter" magazine of the results of voting.

g. A quorum for voting by mail shall consist of timely receipt of certified ballots from at least one-tenth of the number of members entitled to vote.

4. This Association is formed to extend the fellowship and patriotism of living members as well as to perpetuate the memory of all persons, whether they were Association members or not, who served with the squadron from 1941 to the present. No monetary profit shall ever be derived by any member of himself or any non-member from any activity conducted by the Association.

5. Mail ballots shall not be combined with any voting at a reunion. Any action created by a mail ballot shall become effective thirty (30) days after the close of voting.