

**Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers, Inc.**

**STANDING RESOLUTIONS**

**Rev 1**

**RESOLUTION 1: CLASSES AND FEES**

Repealed by Executive Committee Nov 16, 2022.

**RESOLUTION 2: AMENDMENTS**

Standing resolutions shall express the policy of the Executive Committee toward the administration of the Corporation, and may be enacted by simple majority vote of the Executive Committee. Standing Resolutions of the Executive Committee may be modified or rejected by the general membership.

Adopted September 18, 2004 by the membership.

**RESOLUTION 3: CLASSES AND FEES**

Repealed by Executive Committee Nov 16, 2022.

**RESOLUTION 4 ESTABLISH FOUR (4) ELECTED COMMITTEES**

Repealed by Executive Committee Nov 16, 2022.

**RESOLUTION 5 REVISION OF THE TITLES AND DUTIES OF CERTAIN  
AT LARGE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND  
THEIR COMMITTEES**

Repealed by Executive Committee Nov 16, 2022.

**RESOLUTION #6 A RESOLUTION TO INVEST THE SO-CALLED "PRATT FUND"  
MONIES WITH A CURRENT VALUE OF \$17,141.26, INTO THE  
VANGUARD INDEX FUND CALLED TOTAL STOCK MARKET  
INDEX ADMINRAL CLASS SHARES (VTSAX)**

According to John DeLora, founder and longtime Chair of the Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers (MARP), the "Pratt Fund" was established in the 1980's with seed money from the dissolution of the Friends of the Grand Trunk (Grand Trunk Commuter's Association). The Fund

was named for Edmund Pratt, who started the Friends of the Grand Trunk *See attached letter, dated 27 March 2014, from John Delora.*

The original intent of the “Pratt Fund” was to create an endowment fund, the proceeds of which could eventually be used to fund operations of MARP. The seed monies were originally invested in *American Fund Investment Company of America Fund (AIVSX)*. For many years, additions were made to the investment fund with 10% of the annual membership dues collected and a large portion of any large donations.

On the advice of then-Treasurer, David Randall, the decision was made (see Meeting Minutes, 16 June 2012) to move the “Pratt Fund” monies into the *Vanguard Total Stock Market Index Investment Company of America Fund*. This amount was placed in the MARP checking account at JPMorgan Chase Bank, with the stated intention to reinvest it into the *Vanguard Index Fund called Total Stock Market Index Admiral Class Shares (VTSAX)*. The transaction was not completed at that time.

**Be it Resolved, that the Executive Committee of the Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers directs Jennie Merckel, current MARP Treasurer, to move \$17,141.26 from the MARP checking account to *the Vanguard Index Fund, called Total Stock Market Index Admiral Class Shares (VTSAX)*.**

Approved 16 August 2014 by a majority of the Executive Committee members voting.

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Robert Tischbein  
Chair

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Hugh D. Gurney  
Secretary

*Attach fax of letter, dated 27 March 2014, from John DeLora.*



**John DeLora**  
**P.O. Box 594**  
**St. Clair Shores, MI 48080**

**27 March 2014**

I can't guarantee the exact dates and figures given here. I have almost no MARP records, so what follows is from memory.

The Pratt Fund was established roughly around 1980. The seed money came from the dissolution of the Friends of the Grand Trunk, (Grand Trunk commuters' Association) which had been started and headed by Edmund Pratt. I believe the amount was a little over \$1,000. We received another donation from the dissolution of the Friends of Michigan Central Station; I believe that too, was just over \$1,000. We received another major donation from a woman in the east I believe it was for \$5,000. None of us knew who she was, but she said she admired the work we were doing. I found out later she had made similar gifts to NARP, NY ARP and some other state ARP's

The original idea was that it would be an endowment fund, with the ultimate goal that someday the earnings of the fund would be enough to support MARP's operations. Terry Donnelly was Treasurer at the time. We invested the original money in a mutual fund, Investment Corporation of America, a fund in the American Funds group, and we kept the assets there until after David Randall became Treasurer. To honor Edmund Pratt, we named this endowment fund after him, calling it the Pratt Fund.

The original plan was to take 10% of dues each year and invest in the fund, plus take 90% of any large gifts and invest them also. The balance of any gifts would go into our regular checking account.

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*Officers*

Chairman - Robert Tischbein  
Vice-Chairman - Larry Krieg  
Secretary - Hugh Gurney  
Treasurer - Jeanie Merckel

*Regional Chairpersons*

Detroit Metro - Robert Patterson  
East/Central Michigan - Rosemary Horvath  
Northern Michigan - Don Monteith  
Western Michigan - Warren Fritz

*At-Large Executives*

Kay Chase  
John Langdon  
Kathleen Newell  
Jim Wallington

**RESOLUTION 7: CLASSES AND FEES**

In accordance with Article III, Section 3.3 of the Bylaws adopted November 21, 2015 and amended September 24, 2016, **Be It Resolved** that Resolution #3 “Classes and Fees” of membership be changed to read:

Student.....	\$20.00
Senior (65+).....	\$20.00
Regular.....	\$30.00
Family.....	\$40.00
Advocate.....	\$50.00
First Class.....	\$100.00
Life.....	\$500.00

Adopted by the Executive Committee January 8, 2019

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Thomas W. Purmort – Chair

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Kay Chase, Acting Secretary

**RESOLUTION 8: ESTABLISH CORPORATE SPONSORSHIPS  
AND SET TIERS OF SUPPORT**

**Be It Resolved**, that MARP will use as “Corporate Sponsorships” the following tiers in recognition of financial support for the organization:

Non-Profit.....	\$50
Bronze.....	\$125
Silver.....	\$250
Gold.....	\$500
Platinum.....	\$1,000 (or higher)

Adopted by the Executive Committee 12 February 2019

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Adam Tauno Williams, Chair

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Kay Chase, Acting Secretary


**RESOLUTION 9: ESTABLISH CERTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Be it resolved,** that the Executive Committee shall ensure that, in addition to the duties assigned in the bylaws, the following functions are performed:

- a. Recruitment of new members
- b. Retention of existing members
- c. Dissemination of information via electronic and print media as needed to broadcast and promote the goals and purposes of MARP
- d. Coordination of general membership meetings to ensure that the meetings are well planned, scheduled, located, and advertised to promote the goals and purposes of MARP
- e. Representing the needs of passengers in terms of existing rail and bus services, and needed new services
- f. Working with other advocacy groups, as well as local, Michigan, and federal officials

Adopted by the Executive Committee 11 January 2023

  
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John Guidinger, Chair

  
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Todd Schultz, Secretary

## **RESOLUTION 10: Code of Conduct**

### **Unacceptable Conduct**

The following list, though not exhaustive, identifies examples of conduct considered detrimental to the Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers (MARP) and its reputation:

Falsification of Corporation records.

Financial misfeasance with Corporation funds.

Theft, misappropriation or deliberate destruction of the property of the Corporation.

Deliberate disclosure of confidential information except as properly authorized by the appropriate party.

Withholding information critical to the operations of the Corporation.

Making false or unsubstantiated accusations against officers or other members of the Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers.

Deliberate misrepresentation of a member's authority to act on behalf of the Corporation. Violation of the Bylaws or policies of the Corporation.

Harassment which includes, but is not limited to, sexual harassment, physical fighting, or creating a hostile work or volunteer environment.

Discrimination against any person on the basis of age, sex, race, religion, sexual orientation, national origin or citizenship.

Criminal conduct which can harm the reputation of the Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers.

Any conduct that poses a serious threat to the health or safety of employees, volunteers, or members of the Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers.

Making any public statement impugning the reputation of the Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers, its staff or its members without first making a good faith effort to determine the accuracy of all matters referenced in such a statement. Public statements shall include those made through electronic communications, including communications to lists provided by the Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers, public social media or public on-line forums.

By applying for or renewing Membership, you are agreeing to abide by the Code of Conduct and Bylaws, as may be amended from time to time.

## **Conflict of Interest**

The Standing Resolution titled “MARP Corporate Policy Number 01- Conflict of Interest” was adopted at the December 18, 2004 General Membership Meeting of the Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers. It describes prohibited behavior for that particular subject.

## **Enforcement**

procedure to be followed to enforce the application of this Code of Conduct: MARP Bylaws Section 3.4 SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION OF MEMBERS outlines the 3.4A Members shall not engage in behaviors prohibited by the *Code of Conduct* Standing Resolution.

3.4B The Executive Committee shall review any allegation of a member engaging in such prohibited behavior. The Executive Committee shall attempt to resolve the issue and, if necessary, issue a warning. A more severe action, such as the suspension or expulsion of a member, requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Executive Committee. All proceedings shall be in compliance with the *Code of Conduct* and the *Procedure Document* Standing Resolutions.

**Standing Resolution Passed by the Executive Committee on 2 September 2025**

## **RESOLUTION 11: Procedure Document**

The Chair of all Committees, except for the Executive Committee, shall be appointed by the Corporation Chair.

### **Conduct of Meetings:**

Meetings will start at the stated times.

The secretary will determine if a quorum is obtained.

An agenda will be provided and followed at all meetings.

The Chair will conduct the meetings.

Disagreements should be expressed professionally and tactfully. If presenting a problem, speakers are encouraged to present a viable solution.

Discussions should be about issues not people.

Everyone will be given the opportunity to speak. Attendees need to be recognized by the Chair or discussion leader to speak or comment.

The Chair or discussion leader may limit the amount of time for comments to keep within the agenda. The Chair has sole discretion to limit debate on any discussion and may turn the issue over to the Executive Committee for review at its next meeting.

The Chair may appoint a Parliamentarian as needed to ensure that this Procedure Document, the Code of Conduct and the agenda are followed.

*Roberts Rules of Order*, newly revised, may be used as a guide.

Meetings shall be conducted according to the Michigan Nonprofit Corporation Act (Act 162) of 1982. In case of a conflict, Act 162 shall prevail.

**Adopted by the Executive Committee 2 September 2025**