

WESTERN REGIONAL CHAPTER

CONSTITUTION

AND

BY-LAWS

Revised 1-11-2021

WESTERN REGIONAL CHAPTER
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF AUTO THEFT INVESTIGATORS

ARTICLE ONE
NAME and OBJECT

SECTION 1. NAME: This organization shall be known as the Western Regional Chapter of the “International Association of Auto Theft Investigators”, IAATI, and hereafter referred to as the “Western Chapter.” The name of the Western Chapter shall not be used publicly by any member except that a member of this chapter may use his or her membership card for identification purposes, without express permission of the board of directors. This shall not restrict the officers or appointees of the agents of the Western Chapter in the use of the name to carry out the purpose of the Western Chapter, or the duties of their offices. All members of the Western Chapter must be a member of the International Association of Auto Theft Investigators.

SECTION 2. OBJECT: The objectives and purpose of this Western Chapter shall be:

- a) To unite for mutual benefit those individuals who are eligible for membership as specified under article two.
- b) To provide for exchange of technical information and developments.
- c) To cooperate with all law enforcement agencies and associates who are engaged in the prevention and suppression of vehicles thefts and kindred crimes.
- d) To improve communications and retain autonomy for Independent Auto Theft Associations in so much that the two groups may meet on a common level to share equal goals.
- e) To encourage high professional standards of conduct among auto theft investigators and to continually strive to eliminate all factors which interfere with the administration of justice.
- f) To support and not to supersede the use of the International Constitution and By-Laws with the understanding that the basis of the authority of this constitution is the IAATI Constitution and By-Laws which will at all times be adhered to.

SECTION 3. AREA: The Western Chapter shall include Western Canada (British Columbia and Alberta) and (Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming) of the United States.

ARTICLE TWO

MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP: Any representative of any duly authorized law enforcement agency, employed full time with peace officer powers; administrators and agents employed full time in a governmental motor vehicle registration function or a governmental vehicle regulatory function; administrators and special agents of the National Insurance Crime Bureau, the Insurance Crime Prevention Bureau of Canada, the Oficina Coordinadora de Riesgos Asegurados, S.C. of Mexico; or any person honorably retired from one of the foregoing agencies, provided that such a person possesses the other qualifications for membership and is not less than eighteen years of age. Membership shall be granted at the discretion of both the Western Chapter and the Executive Board of IAATI. Applications of persons denied membership shall be returned to the person applying with a letter of explanation.

SECTION 2. AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP: Any representative of any company, organization, business, or philanthropic endeavor known or believed to be beneficial to the best interests and objectives of the association, and who contributes an annual sum not less than that of an active membership fee and is not less than eighteen years of age is eligible for membership as an Affiliate Member. Membership shall be granted at the discretion of the Executive Board. Affiliate members shall have the privileges of an active member, except voting and holding office, and may be excluded from any training or business meeting by a majority vote of the active members present.

SECTION 3. MEMBERSHIP: Within the Western Regional Chapter either as an active or affiliate, shall be the same as a member within the International Association of Auto Theft Investigators. Membership for residents of Mexico shall be permissible with the concurrence of the Latin American Branch of IAATI.

SECTION 4. TERMINATION: Membership in the Association shall terminate (1) voluntary withdrawal, (2) when any member is in arrears with dues or other obligations to the association, or (3) by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Executive Board when the board at its discretion determines that any member has exhibited conduct inconsistent with the objectives or qualifications of the Association. The Executive Board may also place on probations, censure, or suspend the membership of any member but only after a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Executive Board.

The chapter president shall appoint a three (3) members committee to initiate such a review or investigation, except in cases of termination by voluntary withdrawal or for non-payment of dues. After which the Chapter President shall forward the recommendation to the President of the International Association for further action and final disposition.

The Executive Board shall also give any such member due notice and opportunity to be heard before any such termination, probation, censure, or suspension of membership. Any terminated, probated, censured, or suspended member may be reinstated by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Executive Board.

SECTION 5. APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP: Applications for membership for active or affiliate membership shall be made to the Executive Director of the International Association with recommendations of an active affiliate or lifetime member of IAATI.

ARTICLE THREE ELECTIONS, TERMS AND OFFICES

SECTION 1. OFFICERS: The officers of the Western Chapter shall be a President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, and Third Vice-President.

SECTION 2. EXECUTIVE BOARD: The Executive Board of the Western Chapter shall be composed of the officers, the elected directors and the last three (3) Past Presidents. The Chapter President shall be the Chairman. The President and First Vice President of the International Chapter of IAATI are also ex-officio members of the board.

SECTION 3. DIRECTORS: The Directors shall be the President or a representative from the Independent Vehicle Theft Associations of the Western Chapter area. The Director shall be elected by the membership of those Independent Auto Theft Associations with one stipulation, that he or she shall be a paid active member of IAATI while serving as Director. To enhance the IAATI Constitution, Article One, Section 3, there shall not be a maximum number of Directors to serve on the Executive Board.

SECTION 4. TERM OF OFFICE: The officers shall hold office, from the time of their election and qualifications, for terms of one (1) year or until the election and qualification of their respective successors, but under no condition for more than twenty-three (23) months. Nothing in this Article IV shall make it binding upon the members of the Western Regional Chapter to elevate any officer to the next highest office when the time arrives for an election, nor does this preclude any officer from succeeding themselves.

SECTION 5. ELECTIONS: All Chapter Officers shall be elected by a majority vote of IAATI members within the Western Chapter that are in attendance at the yearly chapter meeting. In the event of a cancelled conference, elections can be done electronically, as long as thirty (30) days' notice has been given to the membership prior to that meeting. All Directors shall be appointed by officers of the current year only after those Independent Auto Theft Associations have given their permission to have their president or representative sit on the Western Chapter Executive Board of Directors.

SECTION 6. VACANCIES: In the event of a vacancy occurring among officers of the directors between the annual meeting dates, the vacancy or vacancies may be filled by appointment by the President with the concurrence of the Executive Board. The officer of director shall hold office only until the next election process.

SECTION 7. NOMINATION COMMITTEE: The nomination committee shall be composed of five (5) persons within the Western Chapter area. The immediate Past President, three directors and a member at large. The Past President shall serve as the Chairperson and shall vote only in the event of a tie. Nominations shall take place prior to the Western Chapter meeting. The nominating Committee shall be appointed during the first day of the hosting Association's Seminar by the Western Chapter President.

SECTION 8. REMOVAL FROM OFFICE: An Executive Board Officer may be removed from office for the following:

- 1) Conviction of a felony
- 2) Malfeasance in office
- 3) Failure to perform job duties
- 4) Conduct unbecoming an officer

The President and Vice-President shall conduct a review of any charges. If either the President or the Vice President is the subject of the inquiry the two highest elected officers shall conduct the review. A written notice to remove and a copy of the review will be provided to the respondent. Upon receipt, the respondent has 15 days to submit a written response. The respondent may be removed from office only with a three-quarters (3/4) majority vote of the remaining Executive Board.

ARTICLE FOUR GOVERNMENT

SECTION 1. EXECUTIVE BOARD: The government of this chapter shall be vested in its Executive Board. A simple majority of the elected officers of the Western Chapter shall constitute a quorum.

SECTION 2. DUTIES AND POWERS: The Executive Board shall have full power to initiate and transact all business necessary to the existence of the Western Chapter and the observance of its purpose. It shall have general powers to direct, control and supervise the affairs of the Western Chapter and have final say on all financial transactions for the Chapter.

SECTION 3. PRESIDENT: The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Western Chapter. It shall be the responsibility of the president to supervise and coordinate the activities of the Western Chapter and to preside at the meetings of the Chapter. The President shall appoint appropriate individuals or committees when necessary and shall require reports for the Executive Board. The President through regular communications with the other officers of the Chapter, shall assure that responsibilities are properly fulfilled. The President shall also be responsible for making reports to the International Association, participating in phone conference set by the Executive Director of IAATI and making sure that the Western Chapter is represented at the yearly IAATI Executive Board meeting held during the IAATI training seminars.

SECTION 4. FIRST VICE PRESIDENT: In the absence of the President, the First Vice President shall be the Chief Executive Officer and shall act as such. Responsibilities will include coordination of training and education matters and/or activities with the Chapter Directors.

SECTION 5. SECOND VICE PRESIDENT: In the absence of the President and First Vice President, the Second Vice President shall be the Chief Executive Officer and shall act as such. Responsibilities will include staying abreast of IAATI and Independent Auto Theft Association member needs and maintaining contact with the Chapter President and the Directors. The Second Vice President shall also act as the Chairperson of the Resolutions Committee.

SECTION 6. THIRD VICE PRESIDENT: In the absence of the President, First Vice President and the Second Vice President, the Third Vice President shall be the Chief Executive Officer and shall act as such. The Third Vice President shall maintain a roster of the IAATI member Chapter and shall also be the Chairperson of the Membership Committee.

SECTION 7. IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: The immediate Past President shall serve as an active member of the Executive Board. In the absence of all the other officers, the immediate Past President shall be the Chief Executive Officer and shall act as such. Responsibilities will include being an advisor to all other officers.

SECTION 8. SECRETARY/TREASURER: This position shall be appointed by the Chapter President with the approval of the remainder of the Executive Board. The Secretary/Treasurer shall keep the records, minutes, and roster of members in the chapter area, the constitution and all other documents or items of value. Constant contact will be maintained with the Chapter President as well as the President and Executive Director of the International Association. The Secretary/Treasurer shall be the custodian of any funds of the Chapter and shall disperse such funds as herein authorized and in a manner approved by the Executive Board. The Secretary/Treasurer shall make a summary report of chapter finances each quarter to the Chapter President and such report shall be made available to any Western Chapter member upon written request to the Chapter President. At the end of the year a report shall be provided at the annual Western Chapter meeting.

SECTION 9. DIRECTORS: Directors will consist of the elected representative from the Independent Vehicle Theft Associations within the Western Chapter area. They shall assist the Executive Board and its committees in the purposes of the Chapter.

SECTION 10. ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS: The Executive Board shall have the right to appoint Associate Directors to the Association. Associate Directors shall have all rights and powers as Directors except for financial matters.

SECTION 11. EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: The Executive Board shall have the right to appoint Ex-Officio members to the Association. Ex-officio members shall have the right to attend meetings to provide input and direction but do not have voting rights unless otherwise stated. The two ex-officio members from the International chapter shall have voting rights but between them, shall only be counted as one vote.

SECTION 12. MEETINGS: The Executive Board may meet at any time or place upon the reasonable call of the President or at the request of the members of the Executive Board. Committees may meet upon call of the Committee Chairperson, at a time and place designated by the Committee Chairperson.

SECTION 13. GENERAL VOTING: In any issue before the Western Chapter, only active and life members may vote and only one vote per active or lifetime

member will be allowed. Due to geographical considerations, voting by email or other electronic form is permissible if prior notice has been given to the membership and thirty (30) days has passed since notice. If notice was given by email or other electronic form, such notice shall be deemed delivered when the email or other electronic form is transmitted. The business to be transacted at the regular meeting of the Board shall be specified in the notice of any such meeting.

SECTION 14. STANDARD OPERATION PROCEDURES MANUAL: The Western Chapter shall adhere to the standard operation procedures manual of the International Association.

ARTICLE FIVE

FINANCE

SECTION 1. STATUS: The Western Chapter shall be constituted and operated as a non-profit organization.

SECTION 2. FUNDS: Any funds paid to the Western Chapter shall be promptly deposited by the Secretary/Treasurer into the Western Chapter account(s).

SECTION 3. EXPENDITURES: It shall take the signature of the Secretary/Treasurer and the approval of the Chapter President to make any expenditure from the account(s) of the Western Chapter under One Thousand Five Hundred dollars (\$1,500). Any expenditures more than that amount will require Board approval. The Chapter President may allow for expenditure which is reoccurring in nature without his direct approval.

SECTION 4. AUDIT: The Chapter President shall appoint a three (3) member Finance Committee to review the Secretary/Treasurer records annually. The Finance Committee shall verify all assets and liabilities of the Western Chapter. A written report shall be available to the membership upon request.

ARTICLE SIX
AMMENDMENTS

SECTION 1. REQUIREMENTS: This constitution and By-Laws may be amended at any meeting of the chapter by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the active IAATI Western Chapter members present, provided:

- a. The proposed amendment is disseminated to the general membership through normal electronic or written communications at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting.
- b. The proposed amendment is presented in a form consistent with, and without conflict, the remainder of the existing Constitution and By-Laws of the chapter and the International Association of Auto Theft Investigators.

ARTICLE SEVEN
DISSOLUTION OF THE CHAPTER

SECTION 1. In the event of the dissolution of the Western Chapter, whether voluntary or involuntary, no member shall be entitled to any of the division of its remaining property of its assets, and the balance of all money and other property received by the Chapter from any source, after payment of all debts and obligations of the Chapter shall be transferred to the International Association of Auto Theft Investigators.



This version of the Western Regional Chapter's Constitution has been reviewed and approved by the IAATI International Board on 28th January, 2021.

Any subsequent amendments to this constitution will not come into effect until they have been reviewed and approved by the IAATI International Board and passed by a vote of the Branch/Chapter members.

Certificate No: 2021_01

Name: Tinus Odendal
Position: International President
Date: 28th January, 2021

Name: John Abounader
Position: International Executive Director
Date: 28th January, 2021