



LA CONEXIÓN MEXICANA

ESCAPEES RV CLUB - CHAPTER 8

NOVEMBER 2023

Escapees experiencing Mexico, its scenery, traditions, food, culture, and folklore via RV travel while giving back through hands-on charity work and donations.



Chapter 8 Mexican Connection President's Message, Warren Carter

As the end of the year approaches, it has been a busy time for the Chapter 8 Board. 2023 has been a productive year as the board continues to move

the Chapter forward and increase member engagement.

The 2024 Guaymas/San Carlos Rally provides participants with various excursions, cultural events, and hands-on charity projects. Participants in the 2024 Rally will have the opportunity to engage with locals on multiple levels, to provide Chapter 8 members with an immersive cultural experience.

The board has proactively updated and standardized its business practices, website, and social media marketing to increase transparency and communications with the membership. This past year, the Board began using Zoom to hold face-to-face business meetings. This has improved communication and helped the board to create and maintain a cohesive working environment.

Technology has enabled the board to interact regularly with its members. Wagonmaster Robert Pimentel held the first ever Chapter 8 live stream to roll out the 2024 Rally. The livestream included two-way, real-time interaction with the membership.

Live streaming will be used to provide orientation to rally participants along with questions and answers. Replays of the live streams are posted on the website.

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Plans are in the works for a membership livestream to discuss future rallies and Chapter 8 activities. Other possible actions could include publishing a membership directory, establishing an online Wagonmaster training program, and holding more than one rally or members gatherings. All of this is to increase engagement among the membership and for the board to continue moving Chapter 8 forward as a volunteer, membership-driven organization.

Chapter 8 needs an active, informed, engaged membership and a Board to continue moving forward.

To continue to grow the chapter must rely on its members to step up and volunteer for the various leadership opportunities within the chapter.

Let me know what you, the members, think at ch8president@gmail.com.

First Vice-President / Wagonmaster Robert Pimentel



I hope all is going well with everyone. The 2024 rally is coming together nicely. It hasn't been as smooth of a road as I would have liked to get to this point, but we are over the hump.

We have 50 plus rigs signed up at this point, knowing from past experience that this number will drop. Your assistant Wagonmaster, Warren, and I will be leaving for Guaymas October 24 to finalize the RV parks, restaurants, tours, charities events and all other fun things we have in store for the group. We will scout out and make a booklet of supermarkets, laundry shops, and other things that might be of importance to you.

I am on the road at this writing and some areas are spotty to no internet. Please bear with if me if I don't respond immediately. When I get home, I will compile the roster. So, for those who have signed up but have not sent me your photo, please do so very soon.

Also, I will start to reach out to you for volunteer positions in the different areas of need. A big one is the lead on the parking team.

I can't think of anything else at this time. We are looking forward to a great adventure together.



Membership Department, Steve Buffy

... again, for the record ... our Escapees Mexican Connection memberships run concurrent with our fiscal year which is May 1st

CHAPTER 8 CONTACT INFORMATION:

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/groups/EscapeesMexicanConnection

Visit our Webpage:

www.mexicanconnection08.com

2024 Wagonmaster – Robert Pimentel:

ch8wagonmaster2024@gmail.com

through April 30th because our fun-filled Rallies in Mexico are typically in February and March. All memberships paid at any time in the current calendar year are good for the rest of the current year and run through April 30th of the following calendar year.

We currently have 147 paid-up memberships that run through or beyond April 30th of 2024 which is up over 30 since the last report. Many of the current memberships run through future years. Membership fees are \$10 for one year, with special pricing of \$25 for 3 years or \$40 for 5 years. Email ch8membership2@gmail.com if you need to know your expiration date.

How do our dues get used ... let me count some of the ways ... annual software fees and subscriptions to keep our website up and running, monthly storage locker fees for all the stuff that is used on Rallies or at Escapade, periodic purchase, or maintenance of capital equipment such as our sound system and presentation system, supplies for Escapade and other promotional events, etcetera.

To open a new membership or to renew an existing or expired membership, go to our website "https://mexicanconnection08.com", scroll across the top of the page to the "Join"

button, and then click on “New/Renew Membership”. When that page opens, you can click on “New Member” or “Renewal” at the top of the page, fill out the Membership Form including entering your SKP Membership Number. Note: you must be a member of the Escapees RV Club to join the Mexican Connection. Select whether you wish to pay for one year, 3 years, or 5 years. Make sure to answer the simple math question at the bottom of the form to prove you are not a robot.

The final steps at the bottom of the form are important ... please read and follow those instructions for your Membership payment to be properly “processed” and “confirmed” whether you choose to pay by PayPal or Credit Card.

Thank you for your interest and involvement in the Mexican Connection, our fun and exciting travels to Mexico, and our charity efforts for the Mexican communities that we visit.

While at the website, please take time to browse through some of the other topics, newsletters, and much more.

We look forward to your continued relationship with the Mexican Connection.



Charity Department Report, Kathleen Brown

Hola Fellow Travelers:

I assisted the chair last year and had such a memorable time. I’m

sure this year is going to be ‘excelente’ as well!

Our rally date this year is approaching rapidly. I am so excited about the journey our Wagonmaster has arranged for us. We are in store for many wonderful experiences including the opportunity to interact with the local community through charitable work. Currently we have several charity projects in the works.

First is the Centro de Capacitacion para el Trabajo Industrial. This is a trade school for teaching nursing and other trades. We will be giving a dollar amount for scholarships to deserving students through the social worker, Mirna Elizabeth Duarte. Currently, we are looking at giving \$1500.00.

Also, we will be painting a local school on the 24th of February. The school, Telesecundaria 124 San Jose de Guaymas is a grade/high school. They are asking for us to paint the six classrooms, library, & kitchen that has recently been remodeled. We are working with the local Rotary to assist in acquiring the needed materials. We will also be insuring they have shelves in the classrooms to keep critters out of the children’s backpacks. This is a wonderful opportunity to experience a local school and the gratitude will be unforgettable. Last year we met many of the students we were able to help, which was very gratifying.

Primaria Petra Lujan San Jose de Guaymas, Sonora is our second school to help, we will be purchasing physical education equipment for the school.

In addition to the school, we have located a veterinarian in the local area, SBPA San Carlos. They are a non-profit which offers free spay and neutering for the local community and have been serving in this capacity for decades. They have kindly offered to do a presentation for us to acquaint us with their mission, in addition to giving us the opportunity to tour their facility.

Some of the funds for these activities will be generated through our live auction. This is a highlight for the rally; we will have so much fun, and it is all for a very good cause. We will have the auction on the 23rd of February and are currently working on the details. I know many of you have questions about what to bring for the auction, so here are a few ideas: RV gadgets, camping equipment, jewelry, alcohol, and small travel tools.

The more diversified the items the better. Let your imagination guide you. Please feel free to email me at kathleenalyce36@gmail if you have any questions about the auction or charity outings.

We have your interests from registration and will reach out to you soon for placement. In addition, we will have signup sheets at orientation to give everyone an opportunity to sign up for what interests them.

The mission of Chapter 8 is to help as many organizations as possible. What a joy for our chapter.

Mexico has a diverse rich history and I'm looking forward to all our participants discovering and enjoying the country in their own special way.



Victor's Recipe for Authentic Mexican Ceviche

While in San Felipe, Baja Norte, Victor Jr presented a cooking class in ceviche and bacon wrapped shrimp. Being a very picky eater, I was hesitant to try the fish ceviche, but boy was I glad I did!

It was surprising to learn that the juice from many limes can chemically "cook" raw fish in under a half hour!

1 lb of fresh fish, chopped
Juice from 10 to 15 green Mexican limes
Salt and pepper
Half red onion, chopped

You will need to let it rest for 15 to 20 minutes, then blend in the next ingredients:

3 small tomatoes or 2 big tomatoes without seeds, chopped
1 full mango, chopped
1 or 2 Jalapeño (depends on how spicy you want), chopped
Full handful of chopped fresh cilantro



Combine everything together and your ceviche is ready to serve with crackers or tostado chips.

Add-on Trip Report to Baja Sur by Wendy Hardin

Following the end of the 2023 rally on March 5th, several small groups travelled further south from San Felipe into Baja Sur. The group I joined was led by Warren Carter and included myself, Kathleen Brown, and Patti Bartscherer. Our caravan included two Class C motorhomes and two travel trailers. Our main goals were to see the gray whales and find a warm beach!

Our first stop was only a 2-hour/100-mile drive to Rancho Grande beach camping area on the Bahia San Luis Gonzaga. After stopping at the market along Mexico 5 to pay, we drove due east a mile, adjacent to a private airstrip, to reach our assigned palapas lined up along the bay. I think we were all giddy with excitement to have a huge stretch of beach almost all to ourselves! We wasted no time getting our



chairs out to soak up the sun, enjoying the warmth of the sun on our faces despite the cool wind that still blew across the sea. One of the palapas served as our windbreak that evening when Warren set up his barbeque grill to cook our dinners, which was then followed by cocktails mixed with some of the flavored Tequila purchased after our tasting in Puerto Penasco.

After we all had a long sleep and relished a lazy morning (such a treat after a busy rally), we decided to walk a mile north to Alfonsina's Resort. This section is filled with seasonal homes and rentals, some still making repairs from the 2022 hurricane. Our meal there was excellent, and we enjoyed the view across the beautiful bay while dining. That evening we warmed ourselves around the fire while viewing the starry sky between rolling banks of clouds.

After topping off our tanks at the Pemex, we continued south on Mex 5 to the junction with Mex 1. This section was recently redone and is now a modern smooth highway with nice shoulders, light traffic, and great views as it crossed the spine of the Baja Peninsula. After a half hour we joined Mex 1 and the next 111 miles, over 2 hours, were the most stressful of all the roads I've traveled in Mexico thus far. Not only was Mex 1 a narrow road with barely any shoulder at all, but the traffic was heavy in both directions with semi-trucks hauling goods north and south.

We arrive at Mario's RV Park and confirm our reservations for the whale tour in two days. The town of Guerrero Negro is great for stocking up on propane, gas, groceries, and ATM cash, but not so much a tourist destination other than the whale tours. The town is crowded with residents and working folk (Saltworks open-air mine) without much available parking, so we utilized the large enclosed palapa at the campground for some meals and drinks. There



was another add-on trip group from the rally staying there the same timeframe and we all enjoyed gathering for a daily 'happy hour' to recap our day's adventures.

The whale-watching tour was everything that was promised. We began in Mario's palapa where we learn about the gray whales' behaviors and our dos and don'ts while interacting with them on the lagoons. Our driver interprets the sights we see as we travel through town and past the salt mining operations on our way to the northern lagoon.



We are thankful for the advice to dress in layers as the boat flies across the lagoon to the whale area this early morning! Shortly after slowing to an idle, we start seeing signs of whales in the near distance. Soon the mother whales and their calves are swimming beside and under us. We are amazed at how gently they rub the boat when they are capable of



easily bumping us over in a flash! We spent a couple hours on the lagoon petting and photographing the many whales that visit our boat. What a magical experience to gaze into these massive mammal's eyes at such close range!

The next morning, we begin the last leg of our journey into Baja California Sur heading southeast across the peninsula to the eastern shores. For the most part, the roads were in good condition and lightly traveled. The view coming down the eastern side of the Sierra San Francisco range was breath-taking! It was hard to keep my eyes on the road as the twists and turns along Mex 1 revealed the multi-hued blues of the bays of the Sea of Cortez. We pass by the scenic towns of San Ignacio, Santa Rosalia, and Mulege in our rush to reach the beaches of Bahia Concepcion. Our destination is the camp at Playa el Coyote, about five hours and 190 miles from our start.

Upon arrival, Patti and I stop at the first



available palapa near the exit, but Warren and Kathleen choose to travel down the beach over



a very rocky, uneven path further south to another camp area on the bay. Finally, this is the winter retreat we have been dreaming of! White sandy beach, translucent turquoise still water, and warm ocean breezes!! Over the next five days we take in the peace and joy of being beach bums. Early mornings are great



for kayaking and paddleboarding before the breeze kicks in. Everyday, vendors arrive selling just about everything...from fresh baked goods, meat and dairy products, fruit and vegetables, and even souvenirs. Also, trucks carrying tanks of purified RO water and empty

tanks for doing pump-outs. This is boondocking with a plus! As we converse with our neighbors, we discover that some have been here for over four months and are not leaving soon! However, there is no telephone service here, but a nearby business offers free Wi-Fi with paid food/drink purchase. Many campers are equipped with their own satellite service as there is abundant sunlight here for powering solar panels to charge batteries.

Playa el Coyote is just one of many camping beaches sheltered within Concepcion Bay and I for one will defiantly be returning to once again enjoy this view out my doorway!



2023-24 Board Members

President – Warren Carter;
ch8president@gmail.com

First Vice President (Wagonmaster) - Robert Pimentel;
ch8wagonmaster2024@gmail.com

Second Vice President (Assistant Wagonmaster) – Warren Carter;
warren_carter@att.net

Secretary - Carol Javes;
cjav2200@msn.com

Treasurer - Richard DeVore;
treasurerch8@gmail.com

Membership - Steve Bufty;
ch8membership2@gmail.com

Webmaster - Robert Pimentel;
Silversport61@yahoo.com

Charity Chairperson - Kathleen Brown;
kathleenalyce36@gmail.com

Immediate Past President - Jay Hoult;
hoult2@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor - Wendy Hardin;
wendyh.ctmh@gmail.com

Historian – position open

Chapter 8 Financial Report

Membership Dues	\$ 795.00
Miscellaneous income (books, decals, etc)	
Rally Registration (less refunds)	\$ 38,050.00
Rally Cancellation Fees	\$ 50.00
Miscellaneous Donations (snack sales, beverage sales, 50/50, etc.)	
Donation Balance	
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 38,895.00
EXPENSES	
Chapter 8 at Escapade	\$ -
Pre-Rally Expenses	\$ 1,597.04
Stop-Over Pre-Rally Expenses	\$ -
Rally Expenses (camping, meals, jackets, supplies, tours, etc.)	\$ 1,010.00
CHARITABLE DONATIONS	
"Seed Money" for Charity From Prior Years	\$ 1,116.29
Rally donations collected	\$ 3,785.00
donations available	\$ 4,901.29
Auctions income	\$ -
Care	
#2	
#3	
balance	\$ 4,901.29
"Seed Money carry-over for Charity for Next Year	
Administrative Expenses	
PayPal Fees	\$ 1,522.66
Storage Unit	\$ 114.48
Website maintained, Bank fees, software, etc.	\$ -
Office Supplies, shipping, miscellaneous, etc.	\$ -
Pre-Paid Deposits for next year	\$ -

October 1 2023

Bylaws for Escapees Social Network, Inc.
Chapter 8, Mexican Connection

As adopted at the General Meeting at Victor's RV Park, San Felipe, B.C., Mexico, March 2, 2023

ARTICLE 1 – NAME, PURPOSES, POWERS, AND OFFICES

1.1 Name

The name of this Chapter is Escapees Social Network, Inc., Chapter 8, Mexican Connection.

1.2 Purposes and Powers

This Chapter is organized and operated for the following general purposes: Established in 1985 to introduce Escapee Chapter 8, Mexican Connection Members to RV traveling in Mexico, its scenery, traditions, food, culture, and folklore; to travel south of the border and to give back more than the enriching experiences gained through charitable donations and patronizing local businesses; and to enable Chapter 8 Members to feel comfortable returning to México for future rallies as well as their own road trip adventures.

Within these purposes, the Chapter shall provide social and recreational activities for individual Members associated with Escapees RV Club, Inc. The assets and property of the Chapter are hereby pledged for use in performing its exempt purpose. Moreover:

No part of the net earnings of the Chapter shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its Members, trustees, Officers, or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes of the organization.

No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the organization shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements), any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.

Upon the dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future Federal tax code.

ARTICLE 2 – MEMBERSHIP

2.1 Membership Eligibility

Membership in the Chapter is open to all current Members of Escapees RV Club upon becoming dues paying Members of the Chapter.

2.2 Number and Qualifications

The Board shall consist of at least three (3) Officers, President, Secretary, and Treasurer, but may contain more. Additional Officers may include the First Vice President (Wagonmaster), Second Vice President (Assistant Wagonmaster), Membership, Webmaster, Charity, and Immediate Past President. Any two offices may be held by the same person but that person shall have only one vote on the Board. The Board will have a quorum if at least 50% of the Board Members are present. Meetings may be held in person, by email, and by phone, or any combination thereof.

2.3 Term of Office

Officers shall serve until such Officer's successor is elected and qualified, or until such Officers' earlier death, resignation, retirement, disqualification or removal from office. The term

of office for each elected Officer shall be one year. Officers may serve more than one term.

2.4 Nomination of Officers

A Nominating Committee will nominate candidates for successor Officers. At any meeting at which the election of an Officer occurs, any Member may nominate a person with the second of any other Member. In addition to nominations made at meetings, a nominating committee may consider nominees.

2.5 Election of Officers

A person who meets qualification requirements to be an Officer and who has been nominated may be elected as an Officer. Officers shall be elected by a majority vote of those Members at the Annual General Meeting at which a quorum is present.

A Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the President. The Nominating Committee shall obtain at least one nominee for each office. Additional nominations, with verbal consent, may be taken from the floor. The Nominating Committee's slate of Officers will be posted on the Rally bulletin board one day prior to the Chapter's Annual General Meeting.

In the event the Chapter is unable to fill the position of any Officer(s), it shall not constitute a violation of these Bylaws.

2.6 Duties of Officers

Officers will perform their duties in good faith, with ordinary care, and in a manner they reasonably believe to be in the best interest of the Chapter. Ordinary care is care that prudent persons in similar positions would exercise under similar circumstances. In the performance of any duty imposed or power conferred on Officers, they may in good faith rely on information, opinions, reports, or statements, including financial statements and other financial data, concerning the Chapter or another person that were prepared or presented by a

variety of persons, including Officers of the Chapter, professional advisors, or experts such as accountants or attorneys. An Officer is not relying in good faith if the Officer has knowledge concerning a matter in question that renders reliance unwarranted.

Duties of Officers are described in the Chapter Officers' Handbook from Escapees RV Club, Inc. and in the Chapter 8 Standing Rules, and in the Chapter 8 job descriptions as outlined by the Board.

2.7 Filling of Vacancies

Any vacancy occurring in the Board resulting from the death, resignation, retirement, disqualification or removal from office of any will be filled by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Members present at any meeting of the Chapter at which a quorum is present. Any Officer elected or appointed to fill a vacancy will hold office for the remainder of the vacated term and until such Officer's successor is elected and qualified, or until such Officer's earlier death, resignation, retirement, disqualification or removal from office.

2.8 Removal

Any Officer can be removed, either for or without cause, by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Members present at any meeting of the Chapter at which a quorum is present, if notice of the intention to act upon such matter shall have been given in the notice of such meeting and if such notice is provided to the Officer proposed to be removed.

2.9 Resignation

Any Officer may resign at any time by delivering written notice to the Secretary or President of the Board. Such resignation shall take effect upon receipt or, if later, at the time specified in the notice.

2.10 Officers' Compensation

Officers will not receive any salaries or other compensation for their services, but, by resolution of the Board, may be reimbursed for any actual expenses incurred in the performance of their duties for the Chapter, if a majority of disinterested Officers approve the reimbursement. The Chapter will not loan money or property to, or guarantee the obligation of, any Officer.

ARTICLE 3 – BOARD

3.1 General Powers; Delegation

The Chapter is an Board-managed organization. The activities, property, and affairs of the Chapter shall be managed by its Board.

The Board may exercise all such powers of the Chapter and do all such lawful acts and things as are permitted by law, by the Certificate of Formation, or by these Bylaws, unless otherwise expressly provided herein.

ARTICLE 4 – NOTICES

4.1 Notice

One (1) day notice must be given to all Officers and Members of any meeting of the Board and regular General Meetings. Notice of meetings may be given by electronic transmission (i.e., email).

ARTICLE 5 – MEETINGS

5.1 Meetings

The Board will hold at least one meeting a year. Board meetings shall be held at the call of the President, or at the request of any other two Officers. The Annual General Membership Meeting will be held at the Annual Rally in Mexico unless circumstances beyond the control of the Chapter require the Annual General Membership Meeting be held in an alternative location selected by a majority vote of the Board.

5.2 Quorum and Manner of Acting

A quorum of at least twenty (20) Members, including two (2) Officers shall be required for conducting the business of the Chapter at meetings. A majority vote of Members present is required.

Accurate minutes must be kept of business conducted at all meetings. Minutes will be the only legal record of all meetings. Votes at all meetings will be recorded.

5.3 Proxy Voting Prohibited

Proxy voting is not permitted.

ARTICLE 6 – OPERATIONS

6.1 Contracts

The Board may authorize any Officer or Officers, or agent or agents, of the Chapter to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the Chapter, and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

6.2 Disbursement of Funds

The Treasurer may dispense the funds of the Chapter in accordance with the annual budget approved by the Board and the purposes of the Chapter as set out in the Certificate of Formation and these Bylaws.

Financial transactions with the value of \$2,000.00 or more that are not in the annual budget require approval of the Board.

Any Officer, Wagonmaster, Rally Host or Committee Member who is handling any type of funds for Chapter 8 shall keep an accurate account of such funds, including receipts and disbursements (i.e., check, debit card, Pay Pal, wire transfer, or other means) and shall tender said funds, or a bank deposit receipt from the official Chapter 8 account, with a written balance accounting, to the Treasurer.

6.3 Records

The Chapter will keep correct and complete records of account and will also keep minutes of the proceedings of the Board and General Meetings. The Chapter Secretary will keep the certified (signed) original of its Bylaws and Standing Rules as amended to date. Said certified copies of the current Bylaws and Standing Rules will be forwarded to the Escapees RV Club, Inc., and the Chapter Historian, and posted on the Chapter website.

6.4 Dividends Prohibited

No part of the net income of the Chapter shall inure to the benefit of any private individual and no dividend shall be paid and no part of the income of the Chapter shall be distributed to its directors or Officers as compensation.

6.5 Loans to Officers and Directors Prohibited

The Chapter will not make loans to its Officers or Members.

6.6 Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the Chapter will be May 1 to April 30 to coincide with the Chapter’s primary activities on a Rally, usually in Mexico in the January-March time frame.

6.7 Invalid Provisions

If any part of these Bylaws shall be held invalid or inoperative for any reason, the remaining parts, so far as is possible and reasonable, shall remain valid and operative.

6.8 Powers to Amend

These Bylaws may be amended or repealed, or new Bylaws may be adopted at any regular or special meeting of the Board if a quorum is present, and then by the affirmative majority vote of the

Chapter Members in good standing present at a General Meeting, provided notice of the proposed amendment, repeal or adoption be contained in the notice of such meeting; and provided further, that the foregoing notice requirement shall not prohibit the Officers from adopting the proposed amendment, effecting the proposed repeal or adopting the proposed new Bylaws, as the case may be, in a modified form which is not identical to that described or set forth in the notice of such meeting.

6.9 Standing Rules

The Chapter may adopt a set of Standing Rules to cover activities and/or situations not specified in the Bylaws.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, being the appointed Secretary for the Rally, hereby certifies the foregoing, Bylaws of the Chapter were duly adopted by the Board and ratified by Members of the Chapter at the General Meeting.

Robert Pimentel, Appointed Secretary
Date

Escapees Social Network, Inc.
Standing Rules for Chapter 8,
Mexican Connection

As adopted at the General Meeting at Victor's RV Park, San Felipe, B.C., Mexico, March 2, 2023

These Chapter Standing Rules are intended to supplement the Bylaws of the Chapter and if these Standing Rules shall conflict with current Bylaws as amended, the Bylaws shall prevail.

1. Dues.

The dues shall be \$10.00 per Membership per year to be paid by May 1st of each year. For any new Member who signs up between

January and April of the current year, their Membership is in place through April 30th of the following year.

2. Assistant Treasurer or Secretary/Treasurer.

At the discretion of the Board, an Assistant Treasurer may be added as a voting Member of the Board by majority vote at a General Membership Meeting. At the discretion of the Board the offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be combined into one office of the Secretary/Treasurer.

3. Officers and the Board.

a. Either one or two people may be elected to hold the same office but shall only have one vote on the Board.

b. All Chapter 8 Officers/Board Members must be paid Chapter 8 Members throughout their term of office.

c. In case an Officer of the Board is not able to attend a Chapter 8 function, the President can appoint a qualified person (considering the suggestion of that Officer) to perform their duties. This appointment needs to be approved by the majority of the Board Members in person or through email. Only Officers retain voting rights.

d. In the case of the President being unable to complete their term, the Board will appoint a President by majority vote to complete the unexpired term.

4. Review of Chapter Finances.

a. A review of the Chapter's financial records shall be conducted annually. The person or persons conducting the review shall not be an Officer of the Chapter. The review shall take place no later than July 1st annually. The results shall be reported to the

Board and published in the next Chapter Newsletter.

b. The Chapter 8 Fiscal Year shall be from May 1st through April 30th.

c. When there is a change of Treasurers, there shall be an internal audit done before the books are turned over. The President and outgoing Treasurer, in consultation, will appoint the auditors. The audit is to be completed no later than July 1st and published in the next Chapter Newsletter.

d. If the Treasurer is not able to connect with two Escapade Members to perform the audit, as described in the Escapades Treasurer Handbook, within a reasonable time, the audit can be done at the Escapade, by giving the financial information to a representative of the Treasurer who will be attending the Escapade or by mailing information to the Chapter Officers who will then perform the audit.

5. Rally Protocol.

a. Mission Statement It is the intent of the Chapter that Rallies will be in Mexico in accordance with the Chapter.

b. The First Vice President shall be the Wagonmaster for the current year's rally. Subject to the oversight of the Board, the Wagonmaster will be the authority on all decisions regarding the rally, its administration, location(s), charitable actions, rally connected expenditures, creation of special rally committees and appointments of chairpersons and committee Members thereto.

c. Within one to three months after the current year's rally, the President will convene a Board meeting to review and discuss the plans of the Wagonmaster for the next year's Rally. In addition, no less than

thirty (30) days prior to registration for the next Rally, the Board will review the plans and budget of the Wagonmaster for that year's rally.

6. Rally Financial Coordination.

The Wagonmaster and Treasurer shall have a close working relationship in all aspects of Rally finances, as well as registration and cancellation lists. The Treasurer shall pay Rally expenses as called for by the Wagonmaster and/or make such appropriate transfer of funds to the Wagonmaster for payment of Rally expenses providing such financial transactions are within any oversight provisions of the Board.

7. Rally Attendance.

a. Each RV attending a Rally must include at least one person who is a current Member of both Escapees RV Club, Inc. and Chapter 8 Mexican Connection.

b. A current Escapees RV Club Membership number must be presented at the time of registration for that year's Rally.

8. Registration and Rally fees.

a. Registration and Rally fees are proposed by the Wagonmaster. The Registration and Rally fees shall be established by the Board after the Wagonmaster submits a proposed budget used to calculate these fees.

b. Registration Fees are set by the Treasurer with Board approval. The Registration fees are earned administrative fees that are non-refundable.

c. Rally Fees are related to the general costs specific to the Rally and are set by the Wagonmaster with Board approval. Rally

Fees may be refundable in whole or in part depending upon the decision of the Wagonmaster.

9. Second Vice President.

a. The position of the Second Vice President has been created to allow for Rally location planning in the year following of the First Vice President's current year Rally planning.

b. The Second Vice President will present the rally location(s) and a plan(s) to the Membership for a vote at the General Membership Meeting held during the previous year's rally.

c. It is desirable for the Second Vice President to be Assistant Wagonmaster of the current Rally to allow the future Wagonmaster to gain valuable experience.

10. Reimbursements for Wagonmasters.

The approval of the Board, the First Vice President/Wagonmaster, or his/her designated representative With, shall have their fuel costs in Mexico reimbursed for up to two (2) scouting trips to the Rally site(s) up to the amount established annually by the Board and upon presentation of expense documentation (receipts) to the Treasurer. Additional reimbursement for other scouting trip expenses may be authorized by the Board. In addition, in recognition of the costs incurred by the Wagonmaster in scouting trips, the Wagonmaster may register for their Rally at no charge. An Assistant Wagonmaster may register at the cost of one-half of the Rally and registration Fees.

11. Escapade Reimbursements.

One Chapter 8 Member shall be designated by the President of the Chapter as Chapter 8's Row Representative at an Escapees RV Club, Inc. Escapade, therefore, said Row

Representative will be reimbursed for their Escapade fees along with up to \$300.00 for miscellaneous expenses for decorations, favors, etcetera, to represent Chapter 8 adequately.

12. Charity Committee.

The Charity Chairperson is an elected Board Member that appoints a Charity Committee for each Rally. That Committee is responsible for locating, evaluation and distribution of charitable assistance to needy residents of Mexico subject to the Wagonmaster's rally plan and the following provisions:

a. CHARITY COMMITTEE PURPOSE:

The Charity Committee coordinates the collection and distribution of donated items or monies and selects charitable work projects for the attending volunteers. The Committee may receive and review charitable assistance requests and will make recommendations for distribution of monies contributed for the Rally to the assembled Rally attendees at the General Meeting.

b. Monetary Charitable Contributions:

Monetary contributions to Charity shall be disbursed only after an affirmative vote by the majority of the Membership at a meeting in which a quorum is present. In the event that a Rally has multiple locations, multiple such meetings may be called to disperse funds at particular locations.

c. In-Kind Charitable Contributions:

In-Kind Charitable Contributions (items of personal use) maybe distributed at any time during the Rally at the discretion of the Charity Committee without a vote of Chapter Members attending the Rally.

d. Disbursement of Charity Funds Received for a Rally:

Charity Committee Funds received with each Rally's registration specified for charity and all monies donated during the Rally must be spent on that year's Rally Charity disbursements. However, an additional amount for Escapees CARE may be proposed by the Charity Committee and approved by an affirmative vote at the General meeting.

e. Composition of Charity Committee:

The Charity Committee shall serve under the Wagonmaster and be composed of the Charity Chairperson, Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer and three (3) Chapter Members in good standing. Should any Charity Committee Member be unable to attend the current Rally, the Charity Chairperson will appoint a replacement from the attendees at the current Rally.

- i. The Charity Committee shall serve under the Wagonmaster and be composed of the Charity Chairperson, Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer and three (3) Chapter Members in good standing. Should any Charity Committee Member be unable to attend the current Rally, the Charity Chairperson will appoint a replacement from the attendees at the current Rally.
- ii. All Committee Members shall have one vote each.
- iii. At least one Committee Member should not have served on the Charity Committee in the past two (2) years.
- iv. If possible, one of the Committee Members should be a first time Rally Attendee.

- v. If possible, one of the Committee Members should be a first time Rally Attendee.

13. Rally Financial Report.

At the conclusion of each annual Rally and after the General Membership meeting, the Board will meet to review the Rally and receive a tentative Financial Report from the Treasurer summarizing the income and expenses of the Rally, the Charity monies received and spent, and any other business necessary. The Board will establish a carryover amount of excess Rally funds, if any, for Charity monies available for the next annual Rally. A copy of the Treasurer's report will be provided to the Historian in digital format (source and PDF).

14. Geographical Area.

Resources available to the Charity Committee should be distributed only in the general geographical area(s) in Mexico in which the current year's Rally is held, enabling Rally attendees, who have made the contributions, to see firsthand the needs of the people we are helping and the impact their generosity has. In addition, Charity Committee Members should investigate all donation requests so that they will have in-depth knowledge of how the resources will be used, thus ensuring their best and highest usage.

15. No Individual Beneficiaries.

Chapter 8 Monetary Charity resources should not be given for the sole usage of an individual. Our resources should be allocated to ensure that we are able to help the greatest number of people. Monetary resources should be distributed only to established organizations which demonstrate a clear need for Chapter 8's help and have a proven record of using donations efficiently and honestly. The Committee's goal is to donate resources where they appear to be most needed.

16. E-Board Meetings.

The Board may hold periodic e-Board Meetings as necessary. The President will send out an email with a call for an e-Board Meeting, an agenda of items to be discussed, call for additional motions, a timeline for discussion and finally a deadline when e-votes must be received by the President, who will then compile the votes and announce the results to the Board. Also, at any time, upon the request of two (2) Board Members, to consider specific issue(s), the President will call an e-Board Meeting. The Secretary will transmit to the Board any minutes, motion(s) voted on, rationale changes and the results of each vote. Votes may also be taken by telephone. A copy of the minutes of the Board will be provided to the Historian in digital form.

17. Standing Rules Amendments.

These Standing Rules may be adopted, amended, revised or repealed upon an endorsement of the Board and the majority vote of the Chapter 8 Members in accordance with the current Bylaws.

Certification

The undersigned, being the appointed Secretary for the Rally, hereby certifies the foregoing Standing Rules of the Chapter were duly adopted by the Board and ratified by the Members or the Chapter at the General Meeting on the date above.

Robert Pimentel, Appointed Secretary