

BLUEGRASS INDO-AMERICAN CIVIC SOCIETY

PREAMBLE

Whereas the need for cohesive action on the part of the people of Indo-American heritage, residing in the Bluegrass area, exists, it is hereby resolved that a non-profit organization be formed to maintain the identity of the said group of people and to provide a forum for cultural, educational, civic, charitable and social interaction among its members and the various peoples of the Bluegrass region of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. In so doing, the Society hopes to improve the quality of life for the entire community.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this corporation shall be the BLUEGRASS INDO-AMERICAN CIVIC SOCIETY, hereinafter referred to as the “Society”.

ARTICLE II – INCORPORATION

SECTION 1: The Society is incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The Society shall maintain a registered office and registered agent in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

SECTION 2: The Society shall have no capital stock and is not organized for profit.

SECTION 3: The existence of the Society is to be perpetual.

ARTICLE III – OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSES

SECTION 1: To bring together the people of Indo-American origin (as defined by the By-Laws) living in the Bluegrass area under one umbrella organization.

SECTION 2: To foster friendship among the people of Indo-American heritage and the peoples of various ethnic and national origins residing in the Bluegrass area.

SECTION 3: To provide an avenue for cultural activities conducted and sponsored by the people of Indo-American heritage, living in the Bluegrass area.

SECTION 4: To conduct seminars and educational activities which will enable the youth of the Society to appreciate the rich heritage of their roots and to integrate themselves among peoples of all cultures in order to live harmoniously.

SECTION 5: To render assistance to indigent and needy people living in the Bluegrass community through civic and charitable activities.

SECTION 6: To provide mutual understanding and cooperation between the Society and other civic organizations in the Bluegrass area, the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and United States of America and India.

SECTION 7: To conduct and engage in any and all lawful activities that may be incidental or related to the foregoing.

SECTION 8: Notwithstanding the foregoing:

a. The Society is organized and shall be operated exclusively for cultural, educational and charitable purposes and no part of the net earnings of the Society shall be used to the benefit of or be distributable to its members, directors, officers or other private persons, except that the Society shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth above.

b. The Society shall not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on by (i) an organization exempt from Federal income taxes under Section (501) (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law or (ii) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170 (c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law.

c. Upon the dissolution of the Society, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all the liabilities of the Society, dispose of all the assets of the Society exclusively for the purposes of the Society, in such manner, or to such organizations organized exclusively for charitable, cultural or civic purposes as shall at that time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section (501) (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or the corresponding provision of any future United States law, as the Board of Directors shall determine. Any of such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the court of appropriate jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the Society is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations as said court shall determine to be organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

d. The Society shall recognize individuals and organizations for their accomplishments.

ARTICLE IV – ORGANIZATION

SECTION 1: The affairs of the Society shall be managed by a Board of Directors, called the Governing Board, consisting of the Officers and Councilors as set forth in the By-Laws.

SECTION 2: The India Associations composed of students of Indian origin in the Bluegrass shall be recognized by this Society.

ARTICLE V – POWERS

SECTION 1: Except as otherwise specifically provided in this Constitution and By-Laws, the Society may exercise all powers and authority now or hereafter conferred upon non-profit corporations under the laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

SECTION 2: The Society shall indemnify its officers and directors as set forth in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE VI – MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1: The Society shall have three classes of membership: Active, Youth and Honorary. The requirements for and conditions of membership shall be as set forth in Article I of the By-Laws.

SECTION 2: Only Active members shall have the right to vote and to hold elective office.

SECTION 3: Members shall not be liable for any liabilities of the Society to any extent whatsoever.

ARTICLE VII – QUORUM AND VOTING

SECTION 1: A quorum for any meeting of members shall consist of more than 50 percent Active members eligible to vote at such meetings. Except as otherwise provided by law or in the By-Laws, the act of the majority of the Active members eligible to vote and present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the members.

SECTION 2: A quorum for any meeting of the Governing Board shall consist of two-thirds of its members. Except as otherwise provided by law or in the By-Laws, the act of a majority of the members of the Governing Board present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Governing Board.

SECTION 3: A majority of the members of any committee shall constitute a quorum for any meeting of that committee. Except as otherwise provided by law or in the By-Laws, the act of a majority of the committee members present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of that committee.

ARTICLE VIII – AMENDMENTS

This Constitution and By-Laws may be amended at any Annual meeting of the members as set forth in the By-Laws. (Article X)

ARTICLE IX – LANGUAGE

The official language of the Society shall be English. All the proceedings and records shall be in English.

Bluegrass Indo-American Civic Society

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I – MEMBERSHIP

There shall be three (3) classes of Membership: Active, Youth and Honorary. Only Active members shall have the right to vote and to hold elective office. All applicants to membership are required to demonstrate high ethical and civic standards. All members are expected to and be willing to uphold the objectives and purposes of the Society.

SECTION 1: ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

Open to any person (eighteen years or above) of Indo-American heritage by birth, parentage or marriage, and who lives in the Bluegrass area.

SECTION 2: YOUTH MEMBERSHIP

Open to any youth (less than eighteen years) who is of Indo-American heritage by birth or parentage.

SECTION 3: HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

Open to any person, without regard to race, religion, sex, ethnic or national origin, who is supportive of the Society and its objectives, purposes and functions. The Governing Board is authorized to confer Honorary membership in the Society on any person whom it considers worthy of this recognition because of outstanding contributions to the Society as well as to the people living in the Bluegrass area. The students of Indian origin who are enrolled in the various Universities and colleges in the Bluegrass area, as well as their immediate families shall be extended Honorary membership during the period they maintain their student status.

SECTION 4: DUES AND ASSESSMENTS

A. The initial membership fees and annual dues shall be determined by the Governing Board and may vary with the class of membership. Youth and Honorary members are exempt from such fees and dues.

B. The annual dues shall include the right to receive te official publications of the Society.

C. Special assessment may be levied by the Governing Board to meet the financial needs of the Society.

D. Delinquency:

i. Delinquency shall be deemed to have occurred if annual dues has not been paid by the end of the fiscal year. (See Article IX).

ii. A member whose dues are delinquent shall not receive the Society's publications, shall not be entitled to vote at members meetings, and shall not be entitled to hold elective office or appointed positions in the Society.

ARTICLE II – GOVERNING BOARD

SECTION 1: COMPOSITION

The Board of Directors of the Society shall be called the Governing Board and shall consist of the President, President-Elect, Immediate Past President, Secretary, Treasurer, the President of the India Association of the University of Kentucky or a student representative chosen by the students of Indian origin in the Bluegrass area, two youth members as chosen by the Youth Section and seven (7) councilors.

SECTION 2: COUNCILORS

A. The seven (7) Councilors shall be elected according to the provisions of Article IV, Sections 1 and 2 of these By-Laws.

B. The terms of the elected Councilors shall be two years. One half of the Councilors shall be elected in alternate years. Councilors may not serve more than two terms (four years) either consecutively or separately.

C. No two members of the Board at any time shall be from the same, immediate family (i.e. parents, children or siblings).

SECTION 3: MEETINGS

The Governing Board shall meet every other month.

SECTION 4: DUTIES AND POWERS

The affairs of the Society shall be managed by the Governing Board. The specific duties and powers of the Governing Board include, but are not limited to, the following:

A. To approve all arrangements for the meetings for the members (General Body Meetings). The Board shall determine the time and place of such meetings and shall authorize the Secretary to make suitable arrangements for physical facilities and any other civic, cultural or social functions deemed desirable by the Board. The Board shall further authorize the President of the Society to appoint a Program Committee. The Program Committee shall be authorized to determine the nature of the civic, cultural or social program(s) for that meeting.

B. To control the publication or publications sponsored by the Society. The Board may delegate to the Chairman of the Publications and Correspondence Committee the right to accept or reject any material which may be submitted for publication or communications.

C. To invite a non-member to attend the sessions of any meeting of the members and to participate in the discussions.

D. To conduct the business affairs of the Society and, in particular, to authorize expenditure of the Society's funds. Furthermore, the Board shall be responsible for the records of the society kept by the Secretary and the Treasurer and shall see that such records are open to the membership on request.

E. To receive reports of standing and Ad-hoc committees, approve or disapprove their recommendations and report these actions to the membership when appropriate.

F. To confer Honorary memberships.

G. To select the annual recipient(s) of the Society's Award(s) or Recognition from the candidate(s) recommended by the Awards Committee.

H. To set and adjust membership fees, dues and assessments.

I. To report to the membership, at least annually at the Annual Business Meeting, on the state of the Society. The report will be made by the President.

J. Any additional powers and actions of the Governing Body shall be contingent on the approval of the General Body by a majority vote of the members present at a meeting at which a quorum is present.

SECTION 5: COMPENSATION

The members of the Governing Board shall serve without compensation. The expenses of the offices of the Secretary and the Treasurer incurred in the pursuance of their duties shall be reimbursed from the funds of the Society. The President, acting for the Governing Board, may authorize the Treasurer, at the request of the Chairman of one of the Society's committees, to reimburse the committee expenses incurred in carrying out the business of the Society.

ARTICLE III – OFFICERS

SECTION 1: POSITIONS

The officers of the Society shall be:

1. The President
2. The President-Elect
3. The Secretary
4. The Treasurer
5. The Immediate Past President

SECTION 2: PRESIDENT

The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Society and shall perform all duties customarily associated with the Office of the President. He shall preside at all the meetings and the Executive Committee (composed of the officers 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 listed above). He shall be responsible for the appointment of the Chairman and members of all standing and Ad-Hoc committees, subject to the approval of the Governing Board.

SECTION 3: PRESIDENT-ELECT

The President-Elect shall, in the absence or inability of the President, assume the duties of that office. He shall also perform such duties as may be assigned to him by the President or the Governing Board.

SECTION 4: SECRETARY

The Secretary may act and sign for the Society in all matters except those specifically assigned to another officer or member of the Governing Board. The Secretary shall be responsible for the minutes of meetings of the members, Governing Board and Executive Committee. He shall be responsible for the reading of these minutes to the members, unless the reading is waived. He shall maintain a list of the entire membership with their current address, telephone number and other pertinent data. Be the custodian of all the records, papers and properties of the Society. He shall surrender all documents and properties of the Society to the elected successor.

SECTION 5: TREASURER

The Treasurer shall be responsible for the collection of all funds due the Society and he shall be responsible for their safe keeping. He shall pay all debts of the Society from the Society's funds. He shall keep accurate accounts and shall submit a statement at each Annual Meeting of the members. He shall be required to give a report of the accounts of the Society at each meeting of the Governing Board.

ARTICLE IV – NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

SECTION 1: NOMINATIONS

A. The nominating committee shall consist of the President, President-Elect, The Immediate Past President and two members of BIACS, who are nominated by the governing body. The president shall be the chairman of this committee. The nominating committee shall propose the names of the candidates for election i) President-Elect ii) Secretary iii) Treasurer iv) The required no. of councilors to be elected for the ensuing year. When necessary, the slate shall include a nominee for any vacant office.

B. The nominees shall consent to their nominations. If a Councilor with an unexpired term is nominated for an officer position, a nominee will be designated for his councilor position in anticipation of the possibility that his position may become vacant upon his election as an officer.

C. At least fifteen (15) days prior to the Annual Meeting, the secretary shall mail a copy of the slates to each Active member of the Society.

D. Additional nominations for any such positions may be made by petition signed by at least fifteen (15) Active members submitted to the secretary at least ten (10) days before the Annual meeting. Nominations from the floor shall not be permitted.

SECTION 2: ELECTIONS

Election of officers and councilors from duly nominated candidates will take place at the Annual Meeting of members. Election ballots will be distributed to the Active members. The ballots shall be returned to the Secretary and after counting, the President shall declare the election results at the same meeting.

SECTION 3: INSTALLATION

The Officers and Councilors shall take office at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting at which they are elected.

ARTICLE V – TENURE, SUCCESSION AND VACANCIES

SECTION 1: TENURE

The President, the President-Elect, the Secretary, the Treasurer and the Immediate Past President shall each serve until the conclusion of the next Annual Meeting following their election. The President-Elect shall become President at the conclusion of the next Annual Meeting following his election and shall serve as President until the conclusion of the next Annual Meeting.

The Secretary and the Treasurer may be re-elected for not more than one more term, and shall serve a total of two successive or separate terms.

SECTION 2: SUCCESSION

Succession of the President-Elect to Presidency shall be automatic.

SECTION 3: VACANCIES

A. Officers:

i. If, for any reason, the office of President should become vacant, the President-Elect shall immediately become President and shall serve for the balance of the President's unexpired term and thereafter until the conclusion of the next Annual Meeting following his installation as President-Elect.

ii. If, for any reason, the office of the President-Elect should become vacant, the President shall appoint a temporary President-Elect to serve for the balance of the term. At the next Annual Meeting, a President and President-Elect will be elected from the membership.

iii. Vacancy in any other office may be filled by Presidential appointment for the balance of the unexpired term.

iv. If the position of a Councilor becomes vacant, the Governing Board may designate a person to fill such a vacancy. At the next Annual Meeting, a successor shall be elected to serve for the balance of the unexpired term.

v. Other vacancies occurring prior to the Annual Meeting shall be temporarily filled by the Presidential appointment.

SECTION 4: RECALL OF ELECTED OFFICERS AND COUNCILORS

If any of the elected members misuse their office or are guilty of misconduct or violate the objectives and Constitution and By-Laws for personal gain or misappropriate the funds of the Society, or fall foul of the law resulting in civil or criminal offence and conviction, they shall forfeit their seat immediately. The Governing Body is authorized to remove such a person from any responsible position in the Society until the results of their internal investigation is completed. If the Governing Body felt that the Society might be in any way harmed by the person continuing to hold the office, it can impeach such person and remove from the office. Any such action shall be reported to the membership in a timely fashion and shall have it confirmed by the affirmative vote of at least three-fourths (3/4) of the Active members present who are eligible to vote, provided a quorum is present as specified in Article VII, Section 5-A of these By-Laws. If the Active members wanted to recall any elected member for any of the reasons given above, a

petition with at least thirty percent of verifiable signatures from the Active members is needed, and shall be submitted to the Governing Body. The Governing Body shall convene and discuss the matter. It may appoint a commission of enquiry, at its own discretion and take further appropriate steps as may be indicated. If it decided to proceed with recall or impeachment it (the Governing Body) shall follow the steps outlined above, in this Section.

ARTICLE VI – INDEMNIFICATION

SECTION 1: The Society shall indemnify any and all members of its Governing Board (hereinafter referred to as “Directors”) or officers or former directors or officers, or any person who has served or shall serve at the Society’s request or by its election as a director or officer, against expenses actually and necessarily incurred by them in connection with their duties and functions of the Society. This shall not apply if there is willful misconduct or misappropriation of the Society’s funds or resources, in the performance of their duty or function of the Society.

ARTICLE VII – MEMBERS MEETING

SECTION 1: ANNUAL MEETING

An Annual Meeting of the membership shall be held each year at a time and place to be determined by the Governing Board, preferably before the end of January of the following year.

SECTION 2: GENERAL BODY MEETINGS

There shall be an annual meeting before the end of January of the following year. Other special meetings of the General Body shall be called for by the Governing Body or petitioned by one-half of the voting members.

SECTION 3: SPECIAL MEETINGS

At any time, at the discretion of the Governing Board, Special meeting of the membership shall be called.

SECTION 4: NOTIFICATION

A. Written notice stating the place, date and time of the meeting and the agenda shall be mailed to the membership at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting.

B. Public notification of and invitation to the non-members shall be made by the Program Committee.

C. Written notice stating the place, date and time of the Special meeting and the agenda shall be mailed to the membership at least five (5) days prior to the meeting.

SECTION 5: QUORUM AND VOTING

A. Quorum: As provided in the Constitution, more than fifty percent (50%) of the Active members eligible to vote at such meetings, shall constitute a quorum.

B. Voting i) Eligibility for voting shall be determined by the Secretary on the first day of the month of the meeting, as set forth in Article I of these By-Laws.

ii) Issues brought before membership meetings which require a vote shall be decided by a majority of those Active members present who are eligible to vote, except Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws which shall require the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the Active Members present who are eligible to vote, provided a quorum is present as specified in Article VII, Section (5 A) of these By-Laws.

iii) Election of Officers and Councilors shall be set forth in Article IV, Section 2 of these By-Laws.

SECTION 6: BUSINESS MEETING AND AGENDA

A. The Parliamentary rules governed by the Revised Robert's Rules of Order shall govern this Society in all cases in which they are applicable except where they are inconsistent with the Constitution or By-Laws of this Society or applicable law.

B. Agenda: i) The Governing Board shall determine the agenda for the business meeting and any special meetings.

ii) Any member who wishes to bring new business matters before the membership shall submit this business in writing to the Secretary at least fifteen (15) days prior to the membership meeting for the Governing Board's determination whether to include it in the agenda.

iii) Items not placed on the agenda, by the Governing Board for consideration at the membership meeting may only be placed on the agenda during the membership meeting by the affirmative vote of at least a majority of the Active members present who are eligible to vote.

iv) The cultural – civic program of the Annual Meeting shall be arranged by the program Committee (Article VIII, Section 6) of these By-Laws.

SECTION 7: STANDING RULES

Resolutions of a permanent nature which are binding upon the Society until they are rescinded or modified may be adopted. They may be proposed and adopted without prior notification. They shall not conflict with the provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws. Adoption shall be as provided in Article VII, Section 6, B – ii, of these By-Laws.

ARTICLE VIII – COMMITTEES

The Committees of the Society (except the Executive Committee), including the Chairman of individual committees, shall be appointed by the President, subject to the approval of the Governing Board.

A majority of the members of any committee shall constitute a quorum for any meeting of that committee.

Each committee shall submit the minutes of its meetings to the Secretary within ten (10) days after the meeting. At the membership meetings, when called upon by the President, the Chairman of the respective committees shall give a brief report of their activities.

The Committees for the Society shall be as follows:

1. Membership and By-Laws Committee

2. Budget and Financial Planning Committee
3. Youth Committee
4. Program and Educational Committee
5. Awards and Recognition Committee
6. Fund Raising and Corporate Liaison Committee
7. Public Relations and Communications Committee
8. Audit and Overseeing Committee
9. Civic and Charitable Activities Committee
10. Ad-hoc Committees

SECTION 1: MEMBERSHIP AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

A. Structure and Term: Shall consist of seven (7) members. The immediate past president shall serve as the Chairman of this Committee. Their term shall be one year.

B. Duties: To maintain and update the membership roster. To welcome new families of Indo-American heritage who move into the Bluegrass area and provide them with the application and information about the Society. To enroll the applicants into the appropriate membership category, if they meet the criteria for the membership.

To review the Constitution and By-Laws at least once every three (3) years and endorse it or suggest any amendments as needed for the consideration of the Governing Board. To review any amendment proposed by an Active member as stipulated in Article X, of these By-Laws. To submit the proposal together with the Committee's recommendations and comments thereon, to the Governing Board, at least thirty (30) days before the Annual Meeting.

SECTION 2: BUDGET AND FINANCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

A. Structure and Term: Shall consist of five (5) members. the President-Elect shall serve as the Chairman of this Committee. They shall have one year term. The Treasurer shall be one of the members.

B. Duties: To review the financial status of the Society on a continuing basis and make recommendations on dues, contributions, patron memberships and other sources of income. To develop an operating budget in consultation with the Treasurer for presentation to the Governing Board. To review financial reports of the Society's activities and operating expenses, including review of reimbursement vouchers for expenses incurred by officers and committees during the conduct of official Society business.

SECTION 3: YOUTH COMMITTEE

A. Structure and Term: Shall consist of five (5) members. One of the Councilors shall be the Chairman; the two youth members in the Board shall be members of this Committee and two Active members shall be appointed by the President. The term shall be for one year.

B. Duties: To oversee the Youth membership and encourage the youth members to participate in activities of the Society as well as activities of special interest to the Youth Members. To arrange for valuable civic and cultural activities with active youth participation. In conjunction with the Educational Committee, to arrange for seminars, activities and outings of educational, civic and cultural values to the youth membership. In coordination with the Public Relations Committee, to arrange for local and community leaders to address the youth membership.

SECTION 4: PROGRAM AND EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE

A. Structure and Term: Shall consist of seven (7) members. The President of the Students of Indian origin or their representative in the Board shall be the Chairman of this Committee. The President and the immediate past president shall be members of this Committee. One youth member, one student member and two other Active members shall be appointed by the President. Their term shall be for one year.

B. Duties: To develop and plan for cultural and entertainment activities. To develop programs with and for the youth members to encourage their participation as well as give an opportunity for the budding artists of the Society to exhibit their talents. To invite visiting artists from India and other parts of the world, and to arrange for a get together with the members of the Society. To develop a program for the Annual Meeting and present it to the Board for their consideration and approval.

To develop educational programs, presentations and activities which are of civic, cultural and educational value for the youth as well as other members of the Society. To invite civic minded and distinguished members of the community (with the approval of the Board) , to address the members of the Society.

SECTION 5: AWARDS AND RECOGNITION COMMITTEE

A. Structure and Term: Shall consist of three immediate past- Presidents. The senior Past-President shall be the Chairman. Their term shall be for one year.

B. Duties: To recommend to the Governing Board candidates for recognition by the Society at its Annual Meeting; to honor distinguished members of the Society, the Community as well as the visiting dignitaries with a special award, as a token of the Society's appreciation of their contribution to the humanity.

SECTION 6: FUND RAISING AND CORPORATE LIASON COMMITTEE

A. Structure and Term: Shall consist of seven (7) members. The Treasurer shall be the Chairman of this Committee. The term shall be one year.

B. Duties: To collect the annual dues and special assessments from the membership. To develop guidelines for Patron members and Life members of the Society. To encourage the Student Associations and when possible, provide some operational assistance to earmark special charitable programs for the membership to participate and contribute as and when directed to do so by the Board.

SECTION 7: PUBLIC RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

A. Structure and Terms: Shall consist of seven (7) members. The President-Elect shall be a member of this Committee. The terms shall be one year.

B. Duties: To develop rapport with the people of the Bluegrass and promote the activities of the Society. To publicize the purpose and activities of the Society to the lay public and civic societies. To coordinate the public relations activities during the Annual meeting with the local civic and social leaders.

To keep the membership abreast of the activities and programs as well as the progress of the Society by means of periodic news letters and bulletins. To send the new families of Indo-American heritage a welcome greetings on behalf of the Society and its members. To send timely mailing to the membership the information about the meetings as directed by the Board. With the approval of the Board, publish (local and world) news and other data of interest to the Society and its members.

SECTION 8: AUDIT AND OVERSEEING COMMITTEE

A. Structure and Terms: Shall consist of five (5) members; one of the Councilors, one youth member and three Active members. The Councilor shall be the Chairman of the Committee. The term shall be one year.

B. Duties: To conduct an annual audit of the financial report submitted by the Treasurer and verify the appropriateness and correctness of the expenditures by the Society. To verify income and their proper disposition. The responsibility of keeping and maintaining the various financial records pertinent to the Society's functions and activities shall rest with the appropriate officers and committees. These shall be passed on to the new office-bearers at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting. This Committee shall submit a report of their evaluations (whether financial or a charitable or civic project undertaken by the Society) to the Board directly. Any further action or recommendation or review shall be at the discretion and direction of the Board. In case of any enquiry which the Board seems fit, it shall appoint a special committee to specifically look into that particular matter. The composition, directives shall be decided upon by the Board, tailored to individual situations.

SECTION 9: CIVIC AND CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

A. Structure and Terms: Shall consist of seven (7) members. The President shall be the Chairman of this Committee. There shall be one youth member; one Councilor and the Treasurer shall be members as well. Three other members shall be appointed by the President. The term shall be for one year.

B. Duties: To consider various civic and charitable activities and recommend to the Board and with the approval of the Board, undertake such activities by enlisting the help of the membership. To scrutinize the proposals received from any members of the society with reference to such projects and recommend the best course of action. To contact the various local charitable and civic organizations in this regard and explore the role the Society and its members could play in the relief and welfare work and submit a report to the Board for further directive.

SECTION 10: AD-HOC COMMITTEES

These Committees shall be set up at the discretion of the President, with the approval of the Board. Their composition, term and duties shall be defined by the President at the time of their formation. None of these Ad-Hoc Committees shall have any term beyond the term of the President who appointed them. If any specific need arose, the Governing Body, with the approval of the majority of the members present (when a quorum is present), extend their term for a specified period of time. The Ad-Hoc Committees shall report to the President and in turn, the Board shall be kept informed of these committees and their activities by the President, at each Board Meeting.

ARTICLE IX – FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year for the Society shall commence on the first day of January of each year and end on the last day of December of that same year.

ARTICLE X – AMENDMENTS

The Constitution and By-Laws may be amended at any Annual Meeting of the members in accordance with the following procedure. An amendment may be proposed by any Active member or any Standing or Ad-Hoc Committee by submitting such proposal to the Constitution and By-Laws Committee not less than sixty (60) days before the Annual Meeting. Any such proposal by an Active member must be accompanied by the verifiable signatures of at least fifteen (15) Active members who are eligible to vote and who concur in the proposed amendment. The Constitution and By-Laws Committee shall submit to the Governing Board at least thirty (30) days before the Annual Meeting any amendment submitted to it in accordance with the foregoing and any amendment proposed by the Constitution and By-Laws Committee, together with its re-commendations and comments thereon.

Adoption of an amendment shall require the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the Active members eligible to vote and present at said meeting at which a quorum is present.

ARTICLE XI – YOUTH SECTION

SECTION 1: The youth members (less than the age of 18 years) of the Society shall have a separate section. They shall attend the membership meetings with the others and shall have meetings of the youth section alone as well. The youth members need not pay any annual dues or special assessments to the Society. If they undertake any project with the approval and guidance of the Youth Committee, the Board may, depending on the financial position, appropriate some funds.

SECTION 2: The youth shall be represented in the Governing Body by two of their representatives. Each member of the Board, including the Youth members, has one full vote in the Board. Youth members are not eligible to run for elective offices and shall not have any voting power in the General Body meetings. But they can be appointed by the President to the Committees as noted in detail in Article VII and its several Sections. As a member of a Committee, the youth member shall have one full vote in that committee membership.

SECTION 3: The Youth Committee shall oversee the activities and arrange for educational and civic programs, as detailed in Article VII, Section 4 of these By-Laws.

SECTION 4: Upon attaining the age of eighteen (18) years, the youth member shall be promoted to full Active membership, on paying the appropriate dues, etc. as per any other Active member.

