

CONSTITUTION
OF THE
MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS

ADOPTED JANUARY 15, 1971
REVISED JANUARY, 1976
REVISED APRIL, 1985
REVISED APRIL, 1988
REVISED SEPTEMBER, 1989
REVISED FEBRUARY, 2004
REVISED NOVEMBER, 2007
REVISED DECEMBER, 2010

Recognizing that service to Society, to State, and to Profession is the premise upon which individual opportunity must be built, the Mississippi Association of Professional Surveyors does hereby dedicate itself to the promotion and betterment of the Profession of Land Surveying as a Social Aid and Economic Influence vital to the affairs of men and of the community.

ARTICLE I: NAME

Section 1—The name of this organization shall be the Mississippi Association of Professional Surveyors, a body which may be incorporated under the laws of the State of Mississippi and is a non-profit association hereinafter called the Association.

ARTICLE II: OBJECTIVES

Section 1—The objectives of this Association shall be the advancement of Public Welfare and the professional, social, and economic interest of Professional Surveyors by promotion of education, legislation, and public relations through the establishment and maintenance of high ethical standards and practices.

Section 2—Bring about coordination between the Surveying and Engineering professions through close cooperation with representatives of organizations of professional engineers.

Section 3—To create and advance public recognition of the professional status of the Professional Surveyor and the value of the functions, requirements, and accomplishments of Surveying.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1—The membership of this Association shall consist of the following classes and they shall agree to uphold the Code of Ethics of the Association:

Member

- (1) Any person is eligible for membership in this Association who is a registered Professional Surveyor in the State of Mississippi or any other state or territory having laws regulating the practice of surveying comparable to those of the State of Mississippi. Any eligible person may apply for membership by making appropriate application. Application for membership or readmission shall be reviewed by the membership committee and approved by a majority of the Board of Directors at any regular or called meeting of that body. An applicant for membership shall automatically become a Member of the Association upon acceptance by the Board of Directors. Application for membership shall be accompanied by dues for the current year.

- (2) A member may be expelled from the Association for cause, as provided in the By-Laws. Should the registration of any member lapse or be revoked for any reason or should the member fail to submit current annual dues by January 31 from the beginning of the fiscal year, said member shall automatically cease to be a member of the Association. The request of a delinquent member for readmission must be accompanied by dues paid in full for the current year.
- (3) Members in the Armed Forces shall be exempt from dues for the duration of their tour of duty.
- (4) Any member who is in good standing shall be eligible to vote in this Association.

STUDENT MEMBER

- (1) Any person who is a student at any school in the State of Mississippi, Enrolled in high school, a certificate program, associate degree program, bachelor program or other higher degree programs in surveying and related areas.
- (2) These members shall be assessed in the amount set forth in the By-Laws.
- (3) Student members are not eligible to vote or hold office in this Association.

ASSOCIATE MEMBER

- (1) Any person interested in becoming registered as a Professional Surveyor may become an associate member upon approval by the Board of Directors of the Association.
- (2) These members shall be assessed in the amount set forth in the By-Laws until such time as they become registered. After registration at the beginning of the next fiscal year, these members shall be carried as regular members.
- (3) Associate members are not eligible to vote or hold office in this Association.

SUSTAINING MEMBER

- (1) Any person or firm engaged in a business related to Surveying and interested in the advancement of the Surveying Profession shall be eligible for membership in the Association as a Sustaining Member.
- (2) These members shall be assessed in the amount set forth in the By-Laws.
- (3) The Association reserves the right to refuse membership without recourse or explanation, and to expel any member if in the opinion of the Board of Directors it is in the best interest of the Association.
- (4) Sustaining members are not eligible to vote or hold office in this Association.
- (5) The Association reserves the right to withhold membership privileges of sustaining members who have not paid their dues by January 31 after due notice.

LIFE MEMBER

A life Member is someone who has actively contributed to the growth of the Association and the Profession of Surveying during their career, and has an outstanding reputation for their knowledge, integrity and professional competency. Any person that has been a long standing member of the Association, (i.e. 20 years), and after being nominated by a member of the Association by a written request to the Board stating the nominee's accomplishments and achievements, and upon approval by the Board of Directors shall become a member of the Association for life without payment of further dues.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

- (1) Any person of distinction who has rendered meritorious service to the Profession or this Association may be elected as an Honorary Member of the Association by a two-thirds vote of the membership.
- (2) Membership requirements and payment of annual dues may be waived to Honorary Members.

ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Section 1 - OFFICERS

- (1) The officers of the Association shall consist of a President, President-Elect and a Secretary-Treasurer.
- (2) The term of office will be as follows:

The President will be for one year; the President-Elect for one year and to succeed the President for the following year. The Secretary-Treasurer will serve for a two year term.

- (3) The President shall be a member of the Association, elected by the membership-at-large.
- (4) The President-Elect shall be a member of the Association, elected by the membership-at-large, and shall be automatically elevated to the office of the Presidency for the next administration.
- (5) The Secretary-Treasurer shall be a member of the Association, elected by the membership-at-large. At the discretion of the Board, or if selected by the Nominating Committee, the Secretary-Treasurer may serve more than one term.

Section 2 - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- (1) The Board of Directors, herein referred to as the Board, shall be composed of the three elected officers, six elected directors, and the immediate past-president.
- (2) The Directors shall be members of the Association, elected by the membership-at-large and shall serve for a term of two years and may succeed themselves in office for as many as 3 successive terms.
 - a. The State of Mississippi shall be divided into three (3) Districts, coinciding with the Supreme Court Districts. One Director shall be elected from each of these three Districts annually.
 - b. Initially, one Director was elected from each District for a term of two (2) years, and one was elected from each District for a term of one (1) year, providing staggered terms and the election of one-half of the Directors each year.
- (3) The Board of Directors shall have at least six (6) members present at any properly called meeting to constitute a quorum.
- (4) Eligibility to nomination and retention of position as a member of the Board shall be contingent upon residence in the State of Mississippi and be in good standing with the Association as set forth in the By-Laws.

Section 3 - Election of all officers and directors of the Association shall be by letter ballot. A majority of votes cast shall be necessary to elect an officer. The regular annual election of officers and directors will be prior to the annual meeting but not later than January 1. Rules governing the conduct of regular or special elections by letter ballot will be provided in the By-Laws.

Section 4 - No member of the Board may hold more than one position on the Board. Any Board member who misses two successive regular or called meetings of the Board without special permission of the Board of Directors shall immediately cease to be a member of the Board.

Section 5 - The Board of Directors may employ an Executive Director to assist the Board with the operations of the Association.

Section 6 - Expenses of persons serving the Association shall be allowed at the discretion of the Board and in such amounts as established by the Board.

Section 7 - TERM OF OFFICE

The newly elected members of the Board shall assume their duties as the last order of business at the annual meeting, and they shall hold office until their respective successors assume such office.

Section 8 - VACANCIES

Vacancies occurring on the Board of Directors during the year shall be filled by appointment by the President with approval of the Board.

ARTICLE V: ADMINISTRATION

Section 1 - The President shall be the Executive Officer of the Association. He or she shall preside at meetings of the Association and of the Board and shall be ex-official member of all committees except the nominating committee.

Section 2 - The President-Elect will assume all the duties and responsibilities of the President in the absence of the President. He or she will be familiar with operation of the Association.

Section 3 - The Secretary-Treasurer will be the Secretary of the Board. He or she will oversee the finances of the Association. He or she will oversee an annual written report and such other reports as may be prescribed by the Board and will perform all other duties assigned to him or her by the Board.

Section 4 - The Board will be the governing body of the Association and shall manage the affairs of the Association subject to the Constitution and By-Laws and shall act upon all applications for membership, take measures to advance the interest of the Association and generally direct its business. An affirmative vote of the majority of the Board present will be required to pass any motion not inconsistent with the provisions of this constitution.

Section 5 - The Executive Director will be an employee of the Board. He or she will keep an accurate account of the finances of the Association; keep an accurate roster of all members, and other duties as prescribed by the Board.

ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS

Section 1 - An annual meeting of the Association shall be held at such time and place as the Board of Directors may determine.

Section 2 - The Board of Directors shall meet at the time and place of the annual meeting of the Association and at such other times as may be decided by the Board.

Section 3 - The Board shall instruct the Secretary-Treasurer and the Executive Director with respect to the time and place of all meetings of the Board or Association.

Section 4 - Special meetings of the Association may be called at the discretion of the Board. Notice of all regular and special meetings shall be sent to each (board) member by the Executive Director at least fifteen (15) days prior to date of a regular meeting and ten (10) days prior to date of a special meeting. Meetings of the Board may be called at the discretion of the President or a majority of its membership and shall not be less frequent than every quarter.

ARTICLE VII: MEMBERSHIP DUES

Section 1 – The annual dues for the Association will be set by the board. Membership dues are payable on January 1 and must be paid prior to February 1 each year. If the dues are not received by or postmarked by January 15, a 25% late fee will be assessed. If the dues are not received February 15, the membership will be considered inactive.

Section 2 - Any member in good standing who has reached the age of seventy (70), and has been a member of the Association in good standing for a period of ten (10) years immediately preceding and upon approval by the Board of Directors, shall become a member of the Association for life without payment of further dues.

Section 3 - The fiscal year of the Association shall be from January 1 to December 31 of the same year.

ARTICLE VIII: AFFILIATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Section 1 - The Association may affiliate with the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping and any other National Association upon approval of the Board and the majority of the voting members.

ARTICLE IX: SECTIONAL GROUPS

Section 1 - The Board may authorize a sectional group in any county or group of counties of the State, provided evidence is given that there is a sufficient number of member-Professional Surveyors residing in the area. There must be at least five (5) such Professional Surveyors to form a sectional group. All members of each sectional group must also be members of this Association.

Section 2 - The Board shall have authority to make rules and regulations for authorizing, combining or dissolving local associations and functional or sectional groups.

Section 3 - Each sectional group authorized by this Association shall adopt such By-Laws for its operations as it may deem proper, provided however, that nothing contained therein shall conflict with or contravene the By-Laws of this Association.

Section 4 - Sectional groups shall only engage in such activities as are consistent with professional ideals and ethics. Such activities shall be restricted to the county or counties for which the group is organized, except as the Board may in other respects authorize.

Section 5 - In all matters of local concern not covered by this Constitution and By-Laws, sectional groups shall retain full autonomy, but may call upon this Association for advice, counsel and assistance.

ARTICLE X: DISTRICTS

Section 1 - For the purpose of electing Directors, the State of Mississippi shall be divided into three (3) districts; namely, Central, Southern and Northern, coinciding respectively with the First, Second and Third Judicial Districts of the State Supreme Court.

ARTICLE XI: GOOD STANDING

Section 1 - Members of the Association in good standing shall have the right to vote and to serve on Associational or sectional committees. All members shall be allowed to display the insignia of the Association.

Section 2 - Only members in good standing may serve as officers or as Directors of the Association or as officers of any sectional group.

ARTICLE XII: NOMINATION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Section 1 - The nominating committee shall be appointed by the President and shall consist of the immediate past president and one board member from each of the three (3) districts. Members of the nominating committee shall not be barred from becoming nominees for office. To do so would mean that

service on the nominating committee carried a penalty by depriving its members of a privilege open to all other members.

- a. The nominating committee shall agree and shall report the names of its nominees to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Association by September 1. The Secretary shall report this slate of nominees to the Board by September 15 and shall prepare a ballot to be mailed to the voting membership no later than November 1.
- b. The nominating committee shall nominate at least two (2) candidates for every elective vacancy to be filled. Nominations shall be made for each elective officer and each director to be elected.
- c. Additional nominations may be added to the ballot as provided for in the By-Laws.
- d. The candidate receiving the most votes in each contest will be declared the officially elected candidate.

ARTICLE XIII: REPLACEMENT OF OFFICERS

Section 1 - The Board of Directors, as occasioned for cause and emergency, in the best interest of the Association and its membership, shall have the authority to meet and declare the office of the President, President-Elect or Secretary-Treasurer vacant by 3/4 majority vote, with authority to order the succession of the President-Elect to fill the unexpired term of the President or to fill the unexpired term of the President-Elect and Secretary-Treasurer from the membership of the Association by a 3/4 majority vote of the Board.

ARTICLE XIV: BOARD OF REGISTRATION NOMINATIONS

Section 1 - The Board of Directors of the Association will submit its three recommended nominees, one from each Supreme Court District, to the Governor of the State of Mississippi, as required by the State Law, relative to appointments to the Mississippi State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors.

ARTICLE XV: AMENDMENTS

Section 1 - Amendments or additions to this constitution must be approved by a vote of the Board of Directors, and ratified by letter ballot of the membership. Sixty percent (60%) approval of those voting shall be required.

Section 2 - The Board shall prepare and adopt a series of By-Laws, which shall govern all procedures under this constitution, including those of the Board and of the committees. Such By-Laws shall be adopted and may be amended by a concurring vote of not less than two-thirds of the entire membership of the Board, provided that the text of the proposed By-Law or amendment shall be in the hands of each member of the Board at least 30 days before the meeting at which a vote on the proposed By-Law or amendment is to be taken.

ARTICLE XVI: BY-LAWS

Section 1 - Such additional By-Laws as are essential to the conduct of the affairs of the Association may be enacted from time to time, at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XVII: OPERATIONS

Section 1 - The administrative year of the Association shall be from the close of the annual meeting until the induction of the officers at the next annual meeting.

Section 2 - The Association shall operate on the basis of the fiscal year from January 1 to December 31 of the same year.

ARTICLE XVIII: CONSTITUTION

This Constitution shall be the official Constitution of the Association when ratified by letter ballot of the membership. A majority approval of those voting shall be required.

ARTICLE XIX: PROVISION FOR ADOPTION OF A NEW CONSTITUTION

The Board shall have the authority to prepare and adopt a new or revised constitution if deemed necessary by a 3/4 majority vote of the Board of Directors. The new constitution shall be ratified by letter ballot of the membership. A majority approval of those voting shall be required.