

# USMMA NATIONAL PARENTS ASSOCIATION, INC.

## Corporate By-Laws

### ARTICLE I.

#### Name, Office & Corporate Status

Section 1. *Name.* The Corporation shall be known as: USMMA National Parents Association, Inc. (hereinafter “the Corporation”).

Section 2. *Office.* The principal office of the Corporation shall be located in the County of Nassau, State of New York. This office shall direct corporate activities and be the depository for all corporate records. The Corporation may also have offices at such other places within the state as the Board of Directors may, from time-to-time, determine and/or the business or operations of the Corporation may require.

Section 3. *Corporate Status.* The Corporation is a New York Not-for-Profit Corporation, as defined by the Not-for-Profit Corporation Law, and exempt from income taxation pursuant to Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code.

### ARTICLE II.

#### Corporate Purposes, Document Construction & Definitions

Section 1. *Corporate Purposes.* The purposes of the Corporation are set forth in the Certificate of Incorporation, as may be amended, and qualify the Corporation for exemption from income taxation pursuant to Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as may be amended.

Section 2. *Document Construction.* Any amendment to the purposes of the Corporation must be rendered in accordance with the requirements of Article XIV herein. If there is any conflict between the provisions of the Certificate of Incorporation, as may be amended, and these By-Laws, provisions of the Certificate of Incorporation, as may be amended, shall govern.

Section 3. *Definitions.* As used hereinafter, the words and phrases defined in this Section shall have the following meanings:

- a. **“Parent”** means a person or persons who are Regular Member(s) of the National Parents Association as defined in Article III.
- b. **“Midshipman”** means Cadet, Cadet-Midshipman, Plebe Candidate, Plebe or Midshipman in the Regiment of the United States Merchant Marine Academy.

- c. **“Officer”** means the National President, officers on the National Executive Board of Directors, Regional Vice Presidents (RVP) and other state officers of State or Local Parents Organizations or Associations.
- d. **“Chapter”** means a duly recognized and chartered State or Local Chapter of the Association, the charter of which has not been suspended or revoked.
- e. **“USMMA”** means the United States Merchant Marine Academy (hereinafter referred to as “the Academy”).
- f. **“Mail”** includes communication by Postal Service, email, courier or commercial forms of express mail.
- g. **“Board”** means the National Executive Board of Directors of the National Parents Association.
- h. **“Parents Association”** means any chartered State or Local Parents organization.

### **ARTICLE III.**

#### **Membership**

Section 1. *Classes of Membership Authorized.* Unless otherwise stipulated herein, the Corporation shall have three (3) classes of Members as follows: Regular (voting), Associate, and Honorary.

Section 2. *Qualifications & Criteria for Membership.* The Board of Directors may establish qualifications and criteria for Membership, including a schedule of dues, and any waivers thereof, as well as procedural requirements for, and prohibitions applicable to, prospective Members, unless otherwise proscribed by statute, the Certificate of Incorporation and/or these By-Laws.

Section 3. *Evidence of Membership.* Each Regular Member shall be issued appropriate evidence or proof of Membership, which shall be nontransferable.

Section 4. *Regular Membership.* Any person who is the parent or legal guardian of an Academy appointed plebe candidate, currently enrolled Midshipman, a Midshipman on setback or a Midshipman who has graduated from the Academy or a Midshipman who has become deceased during his/her years at the Academy, or in the years after graduation, shall be eligible for Regular Membership. Regular Members shall have voting privileges on matters brought before the Membership and/or Board and may be elected or appointed as Directors or Officers to the Board of Directors. For the purpose of voting for the members of the Board of Directors and by-laws, Regular Members shall be considered as a household and each household shall receive one (1) vote per household.

A regular member is any person as defined in section 4 who in addition contributes annual dues, as prescribed by the NPA Board of Directors, Such Dues shall be collected by the local chapters and forward to the NPA within 45 days of their collection.

Section 5. *Associate Membership.* Any person evidencing favorable interest in the Academy, its Regiment of Midshipmen or this Association may be eligible for Associate Membership in a State of Local Parents Association. This may include, but is not limited to: grandparents, siblings, relatives, USMMA professors or staff. Associate Members shall not have voting privileges on matters brought before the Membership and/or

Board and shall not have the right to appoint Directors or Officers to the Board of Directors from the ranks of the Regular Members as stipulated in Section 4 of this Article. Associate Members shall not be entitled to appointment as Directors or Officers on the Board of Directors.

Section 6. *Honorary Membership.* Any person who has rendered distinguished service to or in advancement of the Academy, its Regiment of Midshipmen or this Association may be elected to Honorary Membership. Such membership may be granted to individuals who are not parents or family of current or graduated Midshipmen, such as current or retired faculty, staff or administration of the Academy. Honorary Members shall not have voting privileges on matters brought before the Membership and/or Board and shall not have the right to appoint Directors or Officers to the Board of Directors from the ranks of the Regular Members as stipulated in Section 4 of this Article. Honorary Members shall not be entitled to appointment as Directors or Officers on the Board of Directors.

Section 7. *Chapters.* Any five (5) or more Regular Members may form a State Parents Chapter and receive a charter from the Corporation upon submission of an application for a charter and subsequent approval thereof. The National Executive Board of Directors shall review and approve or deny the application.

7.1 *Chapter Organizational Documents.* The Constitution, By-Laws and Amendments of such State Chapters shall not be in conflict with the Constitution or By-Laws of the National Association and shall be submitted to the National Secretary upon adoption and/or amended.

7.2 *Chapter Names.* Names of Chapters shall incorporate the name of the area in which they are located and which they represent.

7.3 *Chapter Communications.* All correspondence, news releases, publicity, advertisements, notices and the like shall clearly state that it is Chapter correspondence. The Chapter shall not speak on behalf of the National Association or the Academy.

7.4 *Chapter Activities.* The Chapter President shall coordinate Chapter activities with the Regional Vice-President for that Chapter. All Chapter Presidents and Members shall follow the proper chain of command. Regarding all Chapter activities and communications with DOT and or the Academy leadership, they shall cc the National President and the respective RVPs. Chapters and/or Members shall not engage in any activity detrimental to the Academy, the Midshipmen, or the National Association.

Section 8. *Termination of Membership.*

8.1. *Termination by the Membership.* Termination of Membership by the Members, themselves, shall be authorized, with cause, by majority vote of members entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting or a Special Meeting of the Board called for that purpose.

8.2 *Termination by the Board of Directors.* Termination of Membership by the Board of Directors shall be authorized, for cause, by majority vote of Regular Membership at any Regular or Special Meeting of the full Membership called for that purpose.

Section 9. *Annual Meeting.* A meeting of the Membership shall annually be held for purposes of the election of Directors and the transaction of any other business of the National Association in a month to be determined by the Board of Directors.

Section 10. *Special Meetings.* Special Meetings of the Membership may be called at any time by the Board of Directors, the National President, a majority vote of the Board of Directors, or upon the written request of at least ten percent (10%) percent of the members entitled to vote. No business shall be conducted at a Special Meeting that is not included in the issued Notice as stipulated herein. A quorum must be present to conduct business.

Section 11. *Meeting Notice.*

11.1. *Notice Requirements.* Notice shall be given to each member prior to each Meeting of the Membership, stating the place, date and hour of the Meeting. Notice of a Special Meeting shall, in addition, identify:

- i. the person, or persons, calling the meeting; and,
- ii. the purpose, or purposes, for which said meeting is being called.

11.2. *Written Notification.* Unless the Corporation has over five hundred (500) Members, written notice of any Meeting of the Membership shall be given personally or by first class mail, or by electronic mail, not less than ten (10) nor more than fifty (50) days before the date of the Meeting. Notice shall be deemed given as stipulated below:

- i. if personally, upon receipt by the Member;
- ii. if mailed, when deposited in the United States Mail, with postage prepaid, directed to the Member at the Member's current address of record as it appears on the list of Members; or,
- iii. if sent by electronic mail or , when forwarded to the number, or electronic mail address, as either appear on the list of Members, excepting that any such notice shall not be considered properly delivered if the Corporation is:
  - (a) unable to deliver two (2)-consecutive notices to the designated electronic mail address or,
  - (b) is otherwise made aware that notice cannot be delivered to the Member or electronic mail

11.3. *Notification by Publication.* Provided the Corporation has more than five hundred (500) Members, notice of Meetings of the Membership may be given by publication. Any such notice shall be:

- i. published in a newspaper published in the County in which the principal office of the Corporation is located once a week for 3-successive weeks immediately preceding the Meeting; and,
- ii. prominently posted on the homepage of the Corporation's website continuously from the date of newspaper publication through the date of the Meeting; and,
- iii. email notification to the full membership via the normal email communication system

Section 12. *Waiver of Notice.* Should any Member fail to receive proper notice of a Meeting of the Membership, as otherwise required by these By-Laws, the Member shall waive his/her right to any such notice if:

- i. the Member attends the Meeting of the Membership without objection to the lack of proper notice, prior to said Meeting being called to order; or,

- ii. either before or after the Meeting, the Member submits, a waiver of notice, which if tendered personally, in writing or by , shall be validated by written or electronic signature; or if submitted by electronic mail, shall include information from which the Corporation can reasonably determine that the waiver was properly authorized.

Section 13. *Qualification of Voters.* The Board of Directors may fix a date as the record date for the purpose of determining the Members entitled to vote at any Meeting of the Membership, or to express consent to or dissent any proposal without a Meeting. The record date shall not be more than fifty (50) nor less than ten (10) days before the date of the Meeting.

Section 14. *Quorum.* At any, duly called Meeting of the Membership, the lesser of ten percent (10%), or one-hundred (100) eligible voting Members entitled to vote, present as a consequence of physical attendance and/or use of telephone/video-conference technology and/or use proxy shall constitute a quorum. When a quorum is once present to organize a meeting, it is not broken by the subsequent withdrawal of any Member(s).

Section 15. *Organization.*

15.1. *President.* At all meetings of the Membership, the National President, or, in his/her absence, the National Vice-President or, in his/her absence, another Director chosen by the Membership shall preside.

15.2. *Secretary.* At all meetings of the Membership, the National Secretary, or, in his/her absence, any Assistant Secretary or, in his/her absence, another Director chosen by the Membership shall act as secretary at the meeting.

Section 16. *Voting.* Each Member shall have one (1) vote per household for purposes of the election of Directors and the transaction of any other business considered by the Membership.

Section 17. *Action by the Membership.*

17.1. *Action Defined.* Except as otherwise provided by statute and/or these By-Laws, an “act,” or “action,” of the Membership shall mean an action at a Meeting of the Membership authorized by vote of a majority of the Members present at the time of the vote, provided a quorum is present.

17.2. *Electronic Communication.* Any, or all, Members may participate in any Meetings of the Membership, by means of a conference telephone, electronic video screen communication or similar communications equipment allowing all persons participating in the meeting to hear each other at the same time. Participation by such means shall constitute presence in person at a meeting of the Membership.

17.3. *Proxies.* Every Member entitled to vote at a Meeting of the Membership may authorize another person, or persons, to act on his/her behalf by use of proxy. To be valid and enforceable, each proxy must be submitted before the Meeting of the Membership for which it is intended. If tendered personally, in writing or by email, the proxy shall be validated by written or electronic signature. If submitted by electronic mail, it shall include information from which the National Association can reasonably determine that the proxy was properly authorized. All proxies shall be submitted on official proxy forms provided by the National Parents Association. All proxies must be submitted to the National Secretary 10 days prior to the effective meeting date. No proxy shall be valid after the expiration of eleven (11) months from the date thereof, unless otherwise provided by proxy. Every proxy shall be revocable at the pleasure of the Member executing same, except as may otherwise be provided by law.

Section 18. *Action by Members on Unanimous Written Consent.* Any act, or action, required or permitted to be taken by the Membership may be taken without a Meeting if each Member submits to the National Secretary, or his/her designee, a written consent, delivered personally or by regular mail, and/or electronic mail, authorizing a resolution to permit the action. A copy of the resolution, and all written consents thereto, shall be filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the Membership.

Section 19. *Reports.* In a manner sufficient to comply with applicable statutory obligations, the Board of Directors shall annually present to the Membership a report, verified by appropriate Officers, or certified by an Independent Auditor, if so required, outlining, in appropriate detail, the National Association's fiscal status, including an annual balance sheet and profit and loss statement or a financial statement performing a similar function for the preceding fiscal year, confirming assets (restricted and unrestricted) and liabilities, revenues and receipts and expenses and disbursements, together with any, and all necessary and/or required supporting documentation. Each such report shall be filed with the records of the National Association and a copy, or an abstract thereof, shall be entered in the minutes of the proceedings of the Meeting of the Membership at which the report is presented.

## ARTICLE IV.

### National Executive Board of Directors

Section 1. *General Management.* The National Executive Board of Directors shall have ultimate authority in governing the operations, finances and affairs of the Corporation. The Board, with the advice of various committees, if so authorized, shall implement, monitor and modify, as may be needed, policies and procedures necessary for proper corporate management. It shall be empowered to employ necessary staff, retain necessary professional assistance, authorize agreements and expenditures and take all necessary and proper steps to advance the purposes and promote the best interests of the Corporation.

Section 2. *Number.* There shall be nine (9) seats on the Board of Directors, including Officers, with the exact number to be established ~~from~~ time-to-time by majority vote of the Board, and approved at a Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the full Membership.

Section 3. *Composition of the Board.* The National Executive Board shall be comprised of the National President, National Vice President, National Treasurer, National Secretary and any additional members as may be appointed from time-to-time by the Board and subsequent approval by the Membership. Directors must have previously served as an officer or Chair in an affiliated State Chapter or as a Regional Vice President.

Section 4. *Regional Vice Presidents.* Regional Vice Presidents will be chosen by a majority recommendation of the Chapter Presidents within the regions they represent. Regional Vice Presidents currently oversee the states in one of eight (8) national regions assigned to the Regional Vice Presidents. Those regions are designated as such: Western Coastal, Rocky Mountain, Central Plains, Southeastern, North Central, Central, Mid-Atlantic, and New England. As regional boundaries may change according to need, specific states will not be assigned within each region, but will be assigned by the National President according to the Corporation's requirements. It is recommended that Regional Vice Presidents communicate with the State Chapters in their region at least four times a year. Regional Vice Presidents shall serve two (2)-year terms commencing during the Annual Parents' Association President's Conference of Parents Weekend. Regional

Vice Presidents shall have the following qualifications: must be currently, or have been, an officer or committee Chairperson in their State Chapter; must meet qualifications for Regular Membership; and must be available to assist the National President as needed. Regional Vice Presidents shall support the National President in all of his/her responsibilities, including but not limited to: provide information to the National President about Parents Association activities and concerns in their regions; serve as Chair of a National Committee, as needed; provide information to State Chapters from the National President and the Academy.

Section 5. *Qualifications.* All Officers and Directors must be at least eighteen (18) years of age and committed to advancing the purposes of the National Association.

Section 6. *Selection Procedure, Terms of Office, Newly Created Directorships & Vacancies*

6.1. *Selection Procedure.* At each Annual Meeting, the Membership, by a plurality of the votes cast, shall elect new Directors to replace those whose terms are expiring to terms of three (3) years in duration.

6.2. *Terms of Office.* The term of office for a Director shall be three (3) years in duration, unless otherwise provided in these By-Laws. Approximately one-third (1/3) of the Directors shall be selected every three (3) years. The terms of office for all Directors shall begin on the day of their election and shall conclude upon the election of their successors.

For the first election, which shall take place no later than 90 days after the 2019 Annual Meeting, all nine (9) seats will be elected in a general election of the Membership. Following the election, the elected nine (9) directors will have a drawing to select which Directors are to fill the one year terms, the two year terms, and the three year terms.

6.3 *Term Limits.* No Member shall serve more than nine years (9) as a member of the Board of Directors. The Term Limits start effective the first election of Directors in 2019. Term limits apply if consecutive or not consecutive. A break in service does not recalibrate the term limits.

6.4. *Newly Created Directorships.* Newly created Directorships resulting from an increase in the number of Directors shall be filled by vote of a majority of the Membership. Directors elected to fill newly created Directorships shall hold office in accordance with their classification and until their successors have been elected and qualified.

6.5. *Vacancies.* A vacancy in office shall arise upon the resignation, removal, incapacitation or death of a Director. A vacancy on the National Executive Board of Directors occurring in the interim between Annual Meetings may be filled by an interim successor appointed by the Board of Directors. At the next Annual Meeting following the vacancy, the Membership may elect, by majority vote, a permanent successor for the vacant position. Directors elected to fill vacancies shall hold office for the remainder of the term of the vacated position in accordance with the classification of said position and until their successors have been elected and qualified. No period of interim service shall be considered for purposes of establishing limitations on the terms of Directors.

Section 7. *Resignation.* A Director may resign, at any time, by giving written notice to the National Executive Board of Directors or the National President. Unless otherwise specified in notice, the resignation shall take effect upon receipt thereof by the Board of Director or the President, and the acceptance of the resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

Section 8. *Suspension & Removal.*

8.1. *Suspension.* Any Director may be temporarily suspended, for cause, by a two-thirds (2/3s) majority vote of the National Executive Board of Directors at any Regular Meeting or Special Meeting of the Board called for that purpose. The period of suspension can last only until such time as the next Regularly scheduled meeting or Special Meeting of the Membership called for that purpose. At any Meeting of the Board where a vote is to be taken to suspend a Director, the Director in question may attend and shall be given a reasonable opportunity argue in his/her defense.

8.2. *Removal.* Any, or all, of the Director(s) may be permanently removed for cause, by a two-thirds (2/3s) majority vote of the voting Members at any Regular Meeting or Special Meeting of the Membership called for that purpose. At any Meeting where a vote is to be taken to remove a Director, the Director in question may attend and shall be given a reasonable opportunity argue in his/her defense.

Section 9. *Meetings.*

9.1. *Annual Meetings.* The National Executive Board of Directors, by yearly resolution of the Board, shall as soon as practicable after the Annual Meeting of the Membership, convene an Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors for the purpose of appointing Officers of the Corporation. The Annual Meeting shall be held at the Academy in conjunction with Parents' Weekend. The Annual Meeting shall be referred to as the Parents' Association President's Conference. Reasonable advance notice of the Annual Meeting, including time, date and location, shall be given by means of establishing a customary Meeting date, publishing the date of the meeting on the website of the Corporation, regular mail, , electronic communication, telephone and/or personal delivery.

9.2. *Regular Meetings.* The National Executive Board of Directors, in accordance with a schedule to be determined by resolution to the Board, shall endeavor to annually convene, at least, six (6) Regular Meetings. Reasonable advance notice of the Regular Meetings, including time, date and location, shall be given by means of the advance scheduling of meeting dates, publishing the dates of the Meetings on the website of the Corporation, regular mail, , electronic communication, telephone and/or personal delivery.

9.3. *Special Meetings.* The National Executive Board of Directors, whenever called by the National President or any three (3) Directors, may convene Special Meetings in order to consider specific matters that may be confronted by the Corporation between Regular Meetings, provided the order of business is limited solely to purposes specified in the Meeting notice. Notice of Special Meetings, including purpose, time, date and location, shall be given by regular mail, , electronic communication, telephone and/or personal delivery. If notice is given by telephone or personal delivery, it shall be given not less than three (3) days before the Meeting. If notice is given by regular mail, or electronic communication, it shall be given not less than seven (7) days before the meeting.

Section 10. *Waivers of Notice.* Notice of any meeting of the National Executive Board of Directors need not be given to any Director who submits a signed waiver of notice, by regular mail, electronic mail or personal delivery, to the Board, the National President or the Secretary, either before or after the meeting, or who attends the meeting without protesting prior to formal commencement, the lack of formal notice.

Section 11. *Quorum.* A quorum shall be required for the legal and proper conduct of the business of the National Executive Board of Directors. A majority of the entire Board shall constitute a quorum for the



transaction of any business. When a quorum is once present to organize a meeting, it is not broken by the subsequent withdrawal of any Directors.

Section 12. *Voting.* Each Director shall have one (1) vote. The National President shall vote only in the event of a tie whereupon he/she may cast a deciding ballot.

Section 13. *Action by the Board of Directors.*

13.1. *Action Defined.* Except as otherwise provided by statute and/or these By-Laws, an “act,” or “action,” of the National Executive Board of Directors shall mean an action at a Meeting of the Board authorized by vote of a majority of the Directors present at the time of the vote, provided a quorum is present.

13.2. *Written Unanimous Consent.* Any action required or permitted to be taken by the Board of Directors may be taken without a meeting if the Entire Board submits to the Secretary of the Corporation, or his/her designee, a written consent, delivered by regular mail and/or electronic mail, authorizing a resolution to permit the action. A copy of the resolution, and all written consents thereto, shall be filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the Board.

13.3. *Electronic Communication.* Any, or all, Director(s), or committee member(s), may participate in any meetings of the Board of Directors, by means of a conference telephone, electronic video screen communication or similar communications equipment allowing all persons participating in the meeting to hear each other at the same time. Participation by such means shall constitute presence in person at a meeting of the Board.

Section 14. *Presumption of Concurrence.*

14.1. *Meeting Participation.* A Director who participates in a meeting of the Board of Directors at which an act, or action, on any corporate matter is taken shall be presumed to have concurred to the action taken unless said Director:

- i. assures that his/her dissent is entered in the minutes of the meeting, or ;
- ii. files a written dissent to such act or action with the Secretary of the meeting before the adjournment thereof, or;
- iii. forwards a written dissent, by regular mail, , electronic communication or personal delivery, to the Secretary, immediately after the adjournment of the meeting.

14.2. *Meeting Absence.* A Director who is absent from a meeting of the Board at which an act, or action, on any corporate matter is taken shall be presumed to have concurred to the action taken unless said Director:

- i. forwards a written dissent, by personal delivery and/or registered mail, to the Secretary; or, personally delivers, or, sends by registered mail, his/her written dissent thereto to the Secretary; or,
- ii. assures that his/her dissent is entered in the minutes of the meetings of the Board within a reasonable time after learning of such action.

Section 15. *Attendance.* A Director who has missed the majority of the meetings of the Board of Directors within the calendar year shall be asked to resign. In the event it is determined that a given Director will not fulfill the majority meeting requirement if he or she is not present at the next scheduled Regular Meeting of

the Board, the Secretary shall submit a notice, by regular mail and/or electronic mail, to such a Director advising him/her that if he/she does not attend said meeting, a motion to this effect will be made for his/her permanent removal.

## ARTICLE V.

### Officers

Section 1. *Officers, Appointment & Term.* The National Executive Board of Directors shall appoint by majority vote a National President, National Vice President, National Secretary, and National Treasurer, and such other Officers as it may determine are needed from time-to-time, who shall be given such duties, powers and functions as hereinafter provided. Officers shall be appointed to hold office for two (2) years from the date of appointment. Each Officer shall hold office for the term for which he/she is appointed and until his or her successor has been appointed. Any two or more offices may be held by the same person, except the offices of President and Secretary, or the offices corresponding thereto.

Section 2. *Suspension, Removal, Resignation.* Officers serve at the discretion of the National Executive Board of Directors. Any Officer appointed by the Board may be suspended or removed as an officer by a majority vote of the Board. In the event of the resignation, suspension, removal, incapacitation or death of an Officer, the President of the Board shall appoint an acting successor to fill the un-expired term. This appointment shall be confirmed by a majority vote of the Board within the next two (2) Regular Meetings.

### Section 3. *Duties.*

3.1. *National President.* The President shall be the principal volunteer executive officer of the National Association and shall in general monitor and supervise the business and affairs of the Corporation. The President must have previously held a position as an active Officer or committee Chairperson in their State Chapter. The President must meet qualifications for Regular Membership and should be available to attend major Academy and Alumni events (i.e. indoctrination, Parents' Weekend, Graduation, etc.). He/she shall also be a member of the Board of Directors of USMMA Alumni Foundation, if invited. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors and of the Membership and shall be a voting member of all Committees of the Board, and an *ex officio*, non-voting member of all Committees of the Corporation, unless otherwise precluded by statute, regulation and/or these By-Laws. The President is authorized to sign any deeds, mortgages, bonds, contracts or other instruments that the Board has authorized to be executed, except in cases where the signing and execution thereof shall be expressly delegated by the Board, these By-Laws and/or applicable regulation or statute to some other Officer or agent of the Corporation. The President is the sole Officer or Director authorized to speak on behalf of the Corporation, unless the President and/or the Board of Directors have otherwise delegated such authority to another Officer, Director and/or representative or otherwise directed by these By-Laws. The President shall perform such other duties as from time-to-time may be assigned to him/her by the Board. The National President can appoint committees as he or she sees fit from time to time.

3.2. *National Vice President.* In the absence of the National President, or in the event of his/her inability or refusal to act, or resignation, the Vice President shall perform the duties of the National President, and when so acting shall have all the powers of and be subject to all the restrictions upon the President. The Vice

President shall perform such other duties as from time-to-time may be assigned to him/her by the President and/or the Board.

3.3. *National Secretary.* The National Secretary shall generally be responsible for assuring that the records of the Corporation are properly recorded, documented and stored and that all informal or formal notices that may be issued by the Corporation are tendered in a manner in compliance with all applicable statutes, regulations, contracts, ethical obligations, the Certificate of Incorporation, as may be amended, and these By-Laws. The National Secretary shall assure that the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors, and Committees of the Board or Corporation, if any, are properly recorded, documented and stored; keep a record of the post office address, telephone number and, when possible electronic address of each Member, Director, Officer and member of a committee who does not serve on the Board, if any; notify Directors of election and members of committees of appointment; and, generally serve as custodian of the records of the Corporation. He/she may delegate recording, documentation and storage and other duties, as deemed appropriate, to other Officers, excepting the President, Directors, or employees of the Corporation. The Secretary shall perform such other duties as from time-to-time may be assigned to him/her by the President and/or the Board. Should the position of National Secretary be vacant, the National President reserves the right to add a non-voting individual to the Board, with a majority vote of the Board, to fulfill the role of National Secretary. A non-voting individual added to the Board does not count towards a quorum.

3.4 *National Treasurer.* The National Treasurer shall be responsible for the supervision and accounting of all funds received or expended by the by the Corporation and shall keep the Board of Directors informed on all pertinent financial matters. The Treasurer shall provide a financial report at all Regular Meetings of the Board in a format prescribed by the Board. The Treasurer shall perform other duties as from time-to-time may be assigned to him/her by the President and/or the Board. Should the position of National Secretary be vacant, the National President reserves the right to add a non-voting individual to the Board, with a majority vote of the Board, to fulfill the role of National Treasurer. A non-voting individual added to the Board does not count towards a quorum.

## **ARTICLE VI.**

### **Committees**

Section 1. *Committee Types & General Authority & Responsibilities.* The Board of Directors may permissibly charge committees to perform various functions on behalf of the Corporation in either of the two (2) available types: Committees of the Board and Committees of the Corporation. Each Committee of the Board and Committee of the Corporation, and every member thereof, shall serve at the pleasure of the Board. All Committees shall keep minutes of all proceedings, to be regularly submitted to the Secretary for subsequent distribution to the Entire Board, and report to the Board, at its next scheduled Regular Meeting, all activities and determinations.

Section 2. *Committees of the Board.* Committees of the Board shall be comprised solely of, at least, three (3) voting Directors elected by majority vote of the Board and shall have either standing authority and/or may be designated specific authority from time-to-time by the Board to take action within statutory

limitations that would legally bind the Board and/or the Corporation. No Committee of the Board shall have such the authority in the following matters:

- i. submission to Members, if any, of any act, or action, requiring Members approval by statute and/or these By-Laws;
- ii. filling of vacancies on the Board, or in any of its various committees;
- iii. fixing of compensation for Directors, or members of its various committees;
- iv. authorization of any form of Fundamental Corporate Change, as set forth in these By-Laws, including, but not limited amendment, or repeal, of these By-Laws or the adoption of new By-Laws;
- v. amendment, or repeal, of any resolutions of the Board, which by its terms, shall not be capable of amendment or repeal;
- vi. the election or removal of Officers and Directors;
- vii. the approval of a merger or plan of dissolution;
- viii. the adoption of a resolution recommending to the Members an action on the sale, lease, exchange or other disposition of all or substantially all the assets of The Corporation or, if there are no Members entitled to vote, the authorization of such transaction; or
- ix. the approval of amendments to the Certificate of Incorporation.

The Board shall appoint, at least, three (3), Directors to serve on the following standing Committees of the Board: Executive. The Board, by resolution adopted by the majority of the Entire Board, may designate additional standing Committees of the Board, with such authority as the applicable resolution shall provide.

2.1. *Executive Committee.* The Executive Committee shall be comprised of the elected Officers of the Corporation, National President, National Vice-President, National Secretary and National Treasurer, as well as such other members as the Board may determine. The National President shall serve as the Chair of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall distribute minutes of its meetings to the Entire Board of Directors prior to the next meeting of the Board and, when appropriate, may otherwise inform the Board of Directors in a timely manner of binding decisions made on its behalf. The Executive Committee shall maintain surveillance of the operations and affairs of the Corporation and shall be empowered to transact only such business as may be necessary between Regular Meetings of the Board of Directors. Meetings of the Committee may be called by the Chair or by any three (3)-members of the Committee.

Section 3. *Committees of the Corporation.* Committees of the Corporation shall be comprised of, at least, three (3) individuals elected by majority vote of the Board and shall either have standing authority or may be designated specific authority from time-to-time by the Board. Committees of the Corporation are advisory in nature and cannot under any circumstances take actions that bind the Board and/or the Corporation.

The Board shall appoint, at least, three (3) voting Directors, Members and/or other non-Directors, to serve on the following standing Committees of the Corporation: Board Development, and Congressional Liaison Committee. The Board, by resolution adopted by the majority of the Entire Board, may designate other standing, or *ad hoc*, Committees of the Corporation, with such authority as the applicable resolution shall provide.

3.1. *Board Development Committee.* The Board Development Committee shall consist of, at least, three (3) Directors, as well as an unlimited number of other Directors and/or Regular Members. The Committee shall be responsible for recruiting and nominating Officers and Directors; coordinating orientation for new

Directors and assuring the continued development and training of the Board; endeavoring to assure that the composition of the Board of Directors is properly diversified by any class or qualification deemed imperative by the Board; monitoring Director participation and attendance; and, overseeing Director compliance with all express and implied policies and procedures.

3.2 *Congressional Liaison Committee*: The Congressional Liaison Committee shall consist of, at least, three (3) Directors, as well as an unlimited number of Regular Members, preferably Regular Members representing at minimum three of the defined geographical regions. The Committee shall be focused on uniting stakeholders, in particular; parents of Midshipmen, to work with Members of Congress to improve the United States Merchant Marine Academy. Its focus is on pending or needed legislation that will improve the Academy and the quality of life of the Midshipmen.

Section 4. *Qualifications*. The Board of Directors may establish or waive qualifications for committee membership at its discretion.

Section 5. *Meetings*. Meetings of committees, of which no formal notice shall be necessary, shall be held at such time and place as may be fixed by the National President or the Chair of the applicable Committee or by majority vote of the members of the Committee.

Section 6. *Quorum and Manner of Acting*. Unless otherwise provided by resolution of the Board of Directors, a majority of all of the members of a Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business and the vote of a majority of all of the members of the Committee shall be the act of the Committee. The procedures and manner of acting of all Committees shall be subject at all times to the direction of the Board. All Committees shall maintain appropriate minutes of their meetings in an effort to document proper and appropriate oversight.

## ARTICLE VII.

### Executive Director Duties & Review of Compensation

Section 1. *Duties*. The Board of Directors may employ an Executive Director who shall serve as the chief administrative officer of the Corporation. The Executive Director shall serve in an *ex officio*, non-voting capacity on the Board of Directors and all Committees of the Board and Committees of the Corporation, unless otherwise precluded by statute, regulation and/or these By-Laws. Although serving in *ex-officio* capacity on the Board, and its various Committees, unless otherwise proscribed, the Executive Director shall serve at the pleasure of the Board and, in so doing, he/she shall have no rights or entitlements to attend meetings of the Board, and/or its various Committees, and/or to receive otherwise stipulated notice applicable to meetings of the Board and/or such Committees. He/she shall be responsible for effectuating the purposes of the Corporation and assuring proper and compliant implementation of Board and Membership policies and directives. In effectuating the forgoing, the Executive Director shall be authorized to form, and appoint various individuals to serve on, *ad hoc* advisory Committees of the Corporation in order to offer non-binding recommendations to be considered by the Board from time-to-time. The Executive Director is responsible for general charge of the day-to-day affairs of the Corporation. In consultation with the Personnel Committee, he/she also shall establish up-to-date job descriptions for each

job in accordance with the Board approved budget and/or regulatory/contractual requirements. The Executive Director shall perform all other such duties as are incidental to the position and/or established in a Board approved job description or by employment contract.

Section 2. *Review of Compensation.* At least, annually, the Board of Directors, and/or the Executive Committee, shall engage in a compensation analysis and performance evaluation of the Executive Director, and, if deemed necessary at the discretion the Board, of any other “Key Employee(s),” to run concurrently with the annual performance evaluation of such employee(s). In order to determine the reasonableness of compensation as it applies to the Corporation, this compensation analysis shall confirm that:

- i. the compensation to be authorized and awarded is reasonable for the services to be provided to the Corporation;
- ii. there is no relationship between any of the Corporation’s Directors or Officers and the Executive Director, or any other Key Employee(s) (if applicable), other than one of employment;
- iii. the Executive Director, or any other Key Employee(s) (if applicable), as appropriate, has met, or exceeded, performance expectations; brought value to the Corporation; and/or provided significant contributions to its growth and development;
- iv. no Director or Officer is a Relative of, or employed by the Executive Director, or any other Key Employee(s) (if applicable), as appropriate, or any entity in which the Executive Director/Key Employee(s) (if applicable) has/have, at least, a thirty-five percent (35%) controlling interest; and,
- v. no Director or Officer has a material financial interest affected by the outcome of the compensation review.

## **ARTICLE VIII.**

### **Elected Officer & Director Compensation, Reimbursement & Loans**

Section 1. *Compensation.* No elected Director, Officer or member of a committee shall receive compensation for his/her services as a Director, Officer and/or member of a committee, but if properly authorized, may permissibly receive other compensation for services that may be rendered to the Corporation, provided any such compensation is awarded pursuant to all applicable policies and procedures required by statute, regulation and/or these By-Laws. The Board of Directors shall be empowered to provide reasonable compensation, together with reimbursement for reasonably incurred expenses, for offices or positions not afforded voting privileges for purposes, such as the position of Executive Director.

Section 2. *Reimbursement.* Notwithstanding the mandates of this Article, at the discretion of the Board of Directors, individual Directors, Officers, members of Committees and employees may be reimbursed in an amount determined by the Board for expenses reasonably incurred by them in the performance of their duties on behalf of the Corporation.

Section 3. *Loans.* No loans shall be made by the Corporation to its Directors, Officers, members of committees or to any other corporation, firm, association or other entity in which one or more of its Directors, Officers or committee members are directors or officers or hold a substantial financial interest, except as may be permitted by statute.

**ARTICLE IX.****Fiscal Year**

Section 1. *Fiscal Year.* The fiscal year of the Corporation shall commence on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of January and conclude on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of December.

**ARTICLE X.****Fiduciary Duties**

Section 1. *Duty of Care.* All Directors shall exercise the same standard of care that a reasonable person, with similar abilities, acumen and sensibilities, would exercise under similar circumstances at all times. Each Director shall endeavor to understand all, or substantially, all of the consequences of his/her actions and/or the omissions.

Section 2. *Duty of Loyalty.* No Director shall be permitted to engage in, or condone, any conduct that is disloyal, disruptive, damaging or competes with the Corporation. No Director shall be permitted to take any action, or establish any interest, that compromises his/her ability to represent the Corporation's best interest. All Directors are expected to represent the interests of this Corporation at all times while serving on the Board.

Section 3. *Duty of Obedience.* No Director shall be permitted to disobey or publically contradict an authorized decision of the Board.

**ARTICLE XI****Statutory Compliance**

Section 1. *Conflicts of Interest & Related Party Transaction Protocols.* The Board shall adopt, and at all times honor, the terms of a written Conflicts of Interest & Related Party Transaction Policy to assure that its Directors, Officers and Key Persons act in the Corporation's best interest and comply with applicable statutory, regulatory, and ethical requirements. The Conflicts of Interest & Related Party Transaction Policy shall include, at a minimum, the following provisions:

- i. *Procedures.* procedures for disclosing, addressing and documenting by the Board of Directors, or an authorized committee thereof, as appropriate:
  - a. Conflicts of Interest,
  - b. possible Conflicts of Interest for a determination as to whether a conflict exists, and
  - c. Related Party Transactions,
- ii. *Restrictions.* stipulations that when the Board of Directors, or an authorized committee, as appropriate, is considering a real/potential conflict of interest, the interested party shall not:
  - (a) be present at, or participate in, any deliberations;
  - (b) attempt to influence deliberations; and/or,
  - (c) cast a vote on the matter.

- iii. *Definitions.* definitions of circumstances that could constitute a Conflict of Interest and/or Related Party Transaction..
- iv. *Documentation.* requirements that the existence and resolution of the conflict and/or transaction be documented in the records of The Corporation, including in the minutes of any meeting at which the conflict was discussed or voted upon; and,
- v. *Audit-Related Disclosure.* protocols to assure for the disclosures of all real or potential Conflicts of Interest and/or Related Party Transaction are properly forwarded to the Board of Directors, or another authorized committee, as appropriate, for purposes of audit-related consideration.

Section 2. *Conflicts of Interest & Related Party Transaction Conflicts Policy.* The Conflicts of Interest and Related Party Transaction Policy of the Corporation, required in order to comply with the mandates of Section 1 of this Article, is annexed hereto and made a part hereof as **Appendix “A.”** This policy may only be amended, modified, or repealed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Board of Directors present at any Annual Meeting, Regular Meeting or Special Meeting called for that purpose with the change in policy to not be applicable to any pending or currently being reviewed real or potential conflicts of interest or Related Party Transaction.

Section 3. *Potential Conflicts Disclosure Statement.* The Potential Conflicts Disclosure Statement of the Corporation, required in order to comply with the mandates of Section 1 of this Article, is annexed hereto and made a part hereof as **Appendix “B.”**

Section 4. *Whistleblower Protection Protocols.* The Corporation shall endeavor to protect any “Director,” “Officer” or employee, including any “Key Employee” (each as defined by statute) or volunteer who provides substantial services to the Corporation, from intimidation, bullying, harassment, discrimination or other forms of retaliation on the part of the Corporation, or any of its Directors, Officers, employees, including Key Employees, or volunteers, as a consequence of the good-faith filing of a report relative to possible violations of any statute, regulation, applicable ethical standard or policy or procedure of the Corporation. Should the Corporation have twenty (20) or more employees (full-time, part-time, or a combination thereof) and annual revenue exceeding one million dollars (\$1,000,000), and/or, otherwise, be mandated by applicable statute, regulation and/or contractual obligation, the Corporation shall adhere to the terms of a written Whistleblower Protection Policy, which, in the absence of such considerations, shall be considered advisable, but not required.

## ARTICLE XII.

### Prohibited Conduct, Obligation & Related Policies

Section 1. *Prohibited Conduct.* Neither bullying, harassment nor discrimination shall be tolerated by this Corporation. Any individual bound by these By-Laws who is subject to bullying, abusive behavior, harassment, inappropriate physical touching or suggestive language, unfair behavior or discrimination relating to race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, veteran status, marital status, sexual orientation, political or union affiliation, or records of arrests or convictions, or who experiences is encouraged to report it immediately to a member of the Audit & Finance Committee.



Section 2. *Obligations.* Any individual bound by these By-Laws who is aware of conduct that would reasonably violate the terms of Section 1 herein is required report such activity immediately.

Section 3. *Related Policies.* Appropriate policies concerning workplace bullying, harassment or discrimination will be stipulated in the personnel policies and procedures promulgated by the Corporation. However, nothing in this Article will bind the staff of the Corporation, who will instead be covered by the procedures contained in their personnel policies and procedures.

### ARTICLE XIII.

#### Indemnification of Directors, Officers & Employees

The Corporation shall indemnify its Directors, Officers, employees and volunteers against judgments, fines, amounts paid in settlement and reasonable expenses and costs, including attorneys' fees, in connection with any claim asserted against the Director, Officer, employee or volunteer by court action, or otherwise, by reason of the fact that such person was a Director, Officer, employee or volunteer of the Corporation and acting in good-faith for a purpose which such person reasonably believed to be in the best interest of the Corporation, and was not unlawful, unethical or immoral. In order to assure adequate indemnification, the Corporation shall be required to purchase and maintain appropriate Directors and Officers ("D & O") liability insurance coverage. Any such indemnification, and related insurance, shall be considered, awarded and governed by the terms of a comprehensive Indemnification and Insurance Policy, a copy of which is annexed hereto, and made a part hereof as *Appendix "C."*

### ARTICLE XIV.

#### Fundamental Corporate Changes

Section 1. *By-Law Amendment.* These By-Laws may be amended, repealed or altered by two thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members present at any Annual Meeting or Special Meeting of the Membership called for that purpose.

Section 2. *Certificate of Incorporation Amendment.* The Certificate of Incorporation of the Corporation may be changed or amended, in whole or in part, by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of each the Board of Directors and those Members present at any Annual, Regular, or Special Meeting called for that purpose, provided a quorum is present, provided all statutory approvals are subsequently secured and any Certificate of Amendment or Restated Certificate of Incorporation is accepted for filing by the New York Department of State.

Section 3. *Purchase, Lease, Sale, Mortgage or Disposition of Real Property or Other Assets.* The purchase, lease (for five (5)-or more years), sale, mortgage or disposition of all, or substantially all, of the real property or other assets of the Corporation shall only be authorized by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Entire Board of Directors and a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of those entitled to cast ballots for a resolution of the Membership.

Section 4. *Creation of Corporate Affiliate Relationship.* The Corporation may only enter into any affiliate arrangement, such as a parent/subsidiary relationship with another corporation, or form a new corporation for purposes of establishing an affiliate relationship, by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of each the Board of Directors and those entitled to cast ballots for a resolution of the Membership.

Section 5. *Merger or Consolidation.* This Corporation may be merged or consolidated by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of each the Board of Directors and those entitled to cast ballots for a resolution of the Membership, provided all statutory approvals are subsequently secured and any Certificate of Merger or Consolidation is accepted for filing by the New York State Department of State.

Section 6. *Dissolution.*

6.1. *Procedure.* This Corporation may be dissolved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of each the Board of Directors and those entitled to cast ballots for a resolution of the Membership, provided all statutory approvals are subsequently secured and a Certificate of Dissolution is accepted for filing by the New York Department of State.

6.2. *Residual Assets.* In seeking approvals necessary for Dissolution, the Corporation shall exercise its best efforts to assure that any residual assets shall be donated to another Not-for-Profit Corporation qualified under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code with purposes similar to those of this Corporation.

**APPENDIX A—Board of Directors Conflicts of Interest Policy & Related Party Transactions Policy****1. Policy Requirements.**

Any real or potential “Conflict of Interest” and/or “Related Party Transaction” (each as defined herein) and any other interested matter must be addressed in accordance with the terms of this Board of Directors Conflicts of Interest and Related Party Transactions Policy. Any Conflict of Interest and/or Related Party Transaction, or any other interested matter, authorized in a manner that is materially inconsistent with the terms of this policy may be subsequently rendered void or voidable by a vote of a majority of the Board of Directors, excluding any Directors with an interest in the subject transaction or matter.

**2. Definitions.**

- a. **Conflict of Interest.** Unless otherwise specifically excluded herein, a “Conflict of Interest” means any transaction, agreement or any other arrangement, including, but not limited to a “Related Party Transaction,” as defined herein, between this Corporation and another individual or entity that confers a direct, substantial benefit to any Related Party, as defined herein. The following circumstances shall not be considered a Conflict of Interest for purposes of interpretation of this definition or consideration of a Conflict of Interest by the Board of Directors:
- i. the current, or prior, service of an Officer, Director or Key Person of this Corporation, or a Relative thereof, all as defined herein, as an officer, director, trustee, key employee or partner, or the equivalent thereof, of any corporate entity that is: considered to be an Affiliate, as defined herein; otherwise controlled by, or controls, this Corporation, and/or; an Affiliate of any corporate entity controlled by, or that controls, this Corporation, or;
  - ii. the current, or prior, receipt by an Officer, Director or Key Person of this Corporation, or a Relative thereof, of goods or services offered by this Corporation that are generally made available to other similarly-situated individuals, provided that the recipient does, has not, received any form of preferential treatment as a consequence of his/her relationship with this Corporation.

The assessment of, and any determination concerning any Conflict of Interest must be considered in strict compliance with the adopted policies and procedures of The Corporation.

- b. **Related Party Transaction.** Unless otherwise specifically excluded herein, a “Related Party Transaction” means any transaction, agreement or any other arrangement in which a Related Party has a financial interest and in which the Corporation, or any Affiliate, is a participant. The following circumstances shall not be considered a Related Party Transaction for purposes of interpretation of this definition or consideration of a Related Party Transaction by the Board of Directors:
- i. the transaction, or the Related Party’s financial interest in the transaction is de minimis;
  - ii. the transaction would not customarily be reviewed by the Board, or Boards of similar organizations, in the ordinary course of business and is available to others on the same or similar terms; or
  - iii. the transaction constitutes a benefit provided to a Related Party solely as a member of a class of the beneficiaries that The Corporation intends to benefit as part of the accomplishment of its mission which benefit is available to all similarly situated members of the same class on the same terms.

The assessment of, and any determination concerning, any Related Party Transaction, must be considered in strict compliance with the adopted policies and procedures of the Corporation.

- c. Related Party. A "Related Party" means any:
- i. Officer (of the Corporation or any Affiliate), as defined by statute;
  - ii. Director (of the Corporation or any Affiliate), as defined by statute;
  - iii. Key Person (of the Corporation or any Affiliate), as defined by statute;
  - iv. founder of the Corporation;
  - v. individual who has made substantial monetary contributions to the Corporation;
  - vi. Relative, as defined by statute, of an Officer, Director, Key Person, founder or substantial contributor;
  - vii. partnership or professional corporation where an Officer, Director or Key Person, or a Relative thereof, directly or indirectly, has an ownership interest in excess of five percent (5%);
  - viii. entity where an Officer, Director or Key Person, or a Relative thereof, directly or indirectly, holds a thirty-five percent (35%), or greater, ownership or beneficial interest; or,
  - ix. corporate entity where an Officer, Director or Key Person, or a Relative thereof, serves as an officer, director, trustee, key employee or partner, or the equivalent thereof.

### **3. General Disclosure.**

Prior to initial election, and annually thereafter, each Director shall be required to complete, sign and submit to the Secretary, or an authorized designee, as appropriate, a written statement identifying, to the best of the Director's knowledge, any entity of which such Director is an officer, director, trustee, owner (either as a sole proprietor, partner or member) or employee and with which the Corporation has a relationship, and any transaction in which The Corporation is a participant and in which the Director might have a real or potential interest. The Secretary shall provide a copy of all completed disclosure statements to the Board of Directors, or another authorized committee thereof, as appropriate. A copy of each disclosure statement shall be available to any Director on request.

### **4. Specific Disclosure.**

If at any time during his or her term of service, a Director, Officer or Key Person (each as defined by Appendix "A") acquires an interest, or circumstances otherwise arise, which could give rise to a real or potential Conflict of Interest and Related Party Transaction, or any other interested matter, he or she shall promptly disclose, in good-faith, to the Board of Directors, or an authorized committee thereof, as appropriate, the material facts concerning such interest.

### **5. Process of Review.**

Unless the Board of Directors elects to directly assume such responsibility, the Audit & Finance Committee, or another designated Committee of the Board, shall thoroughly review any real, or potential, Conflict of Interest or Related Party Transaction, or any other interested matter and submit to the Board a recommendation as whether or not it should be approved.

### **6. Affiliate Transactions.**

The current, or prior, service of an Officer, Director or Key Person of this Corporation, or a Relative thereof, all as defined by statute, as an Officer, Director, Trustee, Key Person or partner, or the equivalent thereof, of any corporate entity that is, i) considered to be an Affiliate, as defined by statute; ii) otherwise, controlled by, or controls, this Corporation, and/or; iii) is an Affiliate of any corporate entity controlled by, or that controls, this Corporation, shall not, standing alone, be considered a Conflict of Interest or a Related Party

Transaction for purposes of interpretation of the definition of either term or consideration of any such matter by the Board of Directors.

**8. *Standard of Review.***

For purposes of this policy, amongst the considerations of the Board of Directors, the Audit & Finance Committee, or another authorized Committee of the Board, as appropriate, relative to assessment of any real or potential Conflict of Interest and/or Related Party Transaction, shall be the determination as to whether any financial interest, amounts to a Conflict of Interest and/or a Related Party Transaction, each as defined herein. Should any such financial interest be considered a Conflict of Interest and/or a Related Party Transaction, the terms of this "Conflict of Interest and/or Related Party Transaction Policy" shall apply with regard to proper consideration of the matter. Should the financial interest not amount to a Conflict of Interest and/or Related Party Transaction, as defined herein, the transaction shall be considered an ordinary business matter unworthy of additional non-customary review and/or documentation.

**9. *Authorization of Conflicts of Interest & Related Party Transactions.***

The Corporation shall not enter into any matter considered to be a Conflict of Interest and/or a Related Party Transaction, or any other interested matter, unless such a financial transaction, or other matter, is determined by the Board, or an authorized committee thereof, to be fair, reasonable and in The Corporation's best interest at the time of such determination.

**10. *Authorization of Transactions Concerning Substantial Financial Interest.***

With respect to any Conflict of Interest and/or Related Party Transaction, or other interested matter, in which a Related Party, or otherwise conflicted individual, has a substantial financial interest, the Board of Directors, the Audit & Finance Committee, or another authorized designated Committee of the Board, as appropriate shall:

- i. prior to entering into any such transaction, or matter, to the extent practicable, consider alternative transactions and/or a review of information compiled from, at least, two (2) independent appraisals of other comparable transactions;
- ii. approve the transaction by not less than a two-thirds (2/3s) majority vote of the Directors and/or committee members, as appropriate, present at the meeting; and,
- iii. contemporaneously document the basis for approval by the Board, or authorized committee, as appropriate, which shall include the preparation of a written report, to be attached to the minutes of any meeting where the transaction or matter was deliberated or authorized, identifying the details of the transaction or matter; alternate transactions considered; materials or other information reviewed, Directors, or committee members, present at times of deliberations; names of those who voted in favor, opposed, abstained or were absent; and, the specific action authorized.

**11. *Restrictions.***

With respect to any Conflict of Interest and/or Related Party Transaction, or any other conflicted matter, considered by the Board, the Audit & Finance Committee, or another authorized designated Committee of the Board, as appropriate, no Related Party, or otherwise conflicted individual, shall:

- i. be present at, or participate in, any deliberations;
- ii. attempt to influence deliberations; and/or,
- iii. cast a vote on the matter.

Nothing herein shall prohibit the Board, or authorized committee, as appropriate, from requesting that a Related Party, or otherwise conflicted individual, present information concerning a Conflict of Interest and/or Related Party Transaction, or any other interested matter, at a Board, or authorized committee thereof, meeting prior to the commencement of deliberations or related voting.

***12. Audit-Related Disclosure.***

It shall be the duty of the Secretary to see to it that all newly-received and annually-submitted Director Disclosure Statements and any case-specific Conflict of Interest and/or Related Party Transaction reports, together the minutes of any related meetings, are promptly provided to the Secretary of the Board of Directors, or the Chair an authorized committee thereof, as appropriate, in an effort to assure that they are properly considered for auditing purposes.

***13. Nepotism.***

If a "Relative" (as defined by statute), or a household member, of an employee or Director is considered for employment or retention by The Corporation as an employee or contractor, a presumption of a Conflict of Interest and Related Party Transaction is created. The terms of this Conflicts of Interest and Related Party Transaction Policy will govern the consideration of such a matter. In cases where a Related Party, or household member of a conflicted individual, is found to be the best candidate for a given position and is hired as an employee or retained as a contractor, The Corporation shall document that the employee/contractor is qualified and paid a reasonable salary/rate in accordance with other corporate employees and contractors. In addition, such employee or contractor shall not be supervised by, or be in the line of supervision of, the Related Party or conflicted household member.

**APPENDIX B—Code of Ethical Conduct & Annual Potential Conflicts Disclosure Statement*****—Code of Ethical Conduct—***

This Corporation is committed to maintaining the highest standard of conduct in carrying out our fiduciary obligations in pursuit of our tax-exempt mission and purposes. As such, each and every Director, Officer and Key Person (to the extent applicable) shall adhere to the following code of conduct:

**By-Laws & Policies.**

- be aware of and fully abide by the By-Laws, policies and procedures of the Corporation
- assure compliance of the Corporation with respect to all applicable statutes, regulations and contractual requirements
- respect and fully support the duly-made decisions of the Board of Directors in accordance with all applicable fiduciary duties, including those related to care, loyalty and obedience
- respect the work and recommendations of committees, which are duly charged and have convened and deliberated accordingly
- work diligently to ensure that the Board fully assumes its role as a policy-making, governing body
- understand that the Executive Director, as the Corporation’s chief administrative officer, has the sole responsibility for the day-to-day management of the Corporation—specifically, including the supervision of personnel—and for implementation of Board policies and directives

**Informed Participation.**

- attend most, if not all, meetings of the Board of Directors and assigned committees
- remain informed of all matters, including financial, that come before the Board and/or assigned committees
- respect and follow the “chain of command” of the Board and administration
- constructively and appropriately bring to the attention of the Board, Officers, committee Chairs and/or appropriate staff any questions, personal views, opinions and comments of significance on relevant matters of governance, policymaking and corporate constituencies
- oppose, on the record, actions of the Board with which one disagrees or is in serious doubt
- appropriately challenge, within the structure and By-Laws of the Corporation, those binding decisions that violate the legal, fiduciary or contractual obligations of the Corporation
- do not fully commit to vote a particular way on an issue before participating in a deliberation session in which the matter is discussed and action taken.
- act in ways that do not interfere with the duties or authority of staff

Conflict of Interest, Representation & Confidentiality

- represent the best interests of the Corporation at all times and to declare any and all duality of interests or conflicts of interests, material or otherwise, that may impede or be perceived as impeding the capacity to deliberate or act in the good faith, on behalf of the best interests of the Corporation
- conform to the procedures for such disclosure and actions as stated in the By-Laws or otherwise established by the Board of Directors
- not seek or accept, on behalf of self or any other person, any financial advantage or gain that may be offered because, or as a result, of the Director's affiliation with the Corporation.
- publicly support and represent the duly made decisions of the Board
- always speak positively of the Corporation when communicating with current and potential stakeholders and constituencies
- not take any public position representing the Corporation on any issue that is not in conformity with the official position of the Corporation
- not use or otherwise relate one's affiliation with the Board to independently promote or endorse political candidates or parties for the purpose of election
- maintain full confidentiality and proper use of information obtained as a result of Board service in accordance with Board policy or direction

Interpersonal.

- speak clearly, listen carefully to and respect the opinions of fellow Directors and Key Persons
- promote collaboration and partnership among all Directors
- maintain open communication and an effective partnership with The Corporation's Officers and various committees, if any
- remain "solution focused," offering criticism only in a constructive manner
- not filibuster or engage in activities during meetings that are intended to impede or delay the progress and work of the Board because of differences in opinion or other personal reasons
- always work to develop and improve one's knowledge and skills that enhances one's abilities as a Director



**—Annual Potential Conflicts Disclosure Statement—**

As a Director or Officer or Key Person of the Corporation, prior to your being seated on the Board of Directors or commencing employment with The Corporation, as appropriate, and annually thereafter, you are required to truthfully, completely and accurately disclose all information requested herein and to promptly update all such information as factual circumstances may change from time-to-time. With regard to this Conflicts Disclosure Statement, be advised, all material terms identified by quotation marks are defined by statute.

*please mark 'Yes' or 'No' & provide additional information when requested*

Financial Information Return Disclosure

Responses to the following questions are required in order to complete financial information returns annually submitted to the Internal Revenue Service and the Office of the Attorney General.

1. Have you served as an Officer, Director, Trustee, Key Person, partner or member of, or hold a thirty-five percent (35%) or greater ownership or beneficial interest, or in the case of a partnership or professional corporation a direct or indirect ownership interest in excess of five percent (5%), in an entity, which during the most recently completed, or current, fiscal year, had, or are reasonably anticipated to have, a direct, or indirect, business relationship, with the Corporation?

                            If *Yes*, attach a detailed explanation of the circumstances.  
No              Yes

2. Have you, individually, or through an entity where you hold a thirty-five percent (35%) or greater ownership or beneficial interest, or in the case of a partnership or professional corporation a direct or indirect ownership interest in excess of five percent (5%), during the most recently completed, or current, fiscal year, had, or are reasonably anticipated to have, a direct, or indirect, business relationship, with any individual who is a current or former "Officer," "Director" or "Key Person" of the Corporation?

                            If *Yes*, attach a detailed explanation of the circumstances.  
No              Yes

3. Do you have a "Relative" who, during the most recently completed, or current, fiscal year, had, or is reasonably anticipated to have, a direct, or indirect, business relationship with the Corporation?

                            If *Yes*, attach a detailed explanation of the circumstances.  
No              Yes

4. Have you, or did you have a "Relative" who, during the most recently completed, or current, fiscal year, had, or is reasonably anticipated to have, any transaction with the Corporation that might reasonably be considered a real or potential conflict of interest pursuant to The Corporation's Board of Directors Conflicts of Interest Policy, which has not been otherwise disclosed herein?

\_\_\_\_\_  
No                  Yes                  If *Yes*, attach a detailed explanation of the circumstances.

5. Have you been provided with, properly reviewed and reasonably understand the terms of The Corporation's current written Board of Directors Conflicts of Interest Policy?

\_\_\_\_\_  
No                  Yes

**—Certification—**

I, the undersigned, certify that I have read and understand this Annual Conflicts Disclosure Statement. I agree that my actions will comply with the disclosures found in this document. I further affirm that neither I, as a Related Party nor any Relative have, or had, an interest, or has taken any action, that contravenes, or is likely to contravene, the Conflicts of Interests and Related Party Transaction Policy of The Corporation or, otherwise impedes my ability to act as a fiduciary and in the best interests of The Corporation, except those that may have been disclosed herein.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## **APPENDIX C—Indemnification & Insurance Policy**

### ***1. Authorized Indemnification.***

Unless clearly prohibited by applicable statute, regulation or these By-Laws, the Corporation shall indemnify any person (an “Indemnified Person”) made or threatened to be made a party in any action or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, investigative or otherwise, including any action by the Corporation, by reason of the fact that s/he (or her/his Testator or Administrator, if then deceased), whether before or after adoption of this Article: (a) is or was a Director or Officer of the Corporation, or; (b) is serving or served, in any capacity, at the request of the Corporation, as a Director or Officer of any other corporation, or any partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan or other enterprise. The indemnification shall be against all judgments, fines, penalties, amounts paid in settlement (provided the Corporation shall have consented to such settlement) and reasonable expenses, including attorneys’ fees and costs of investigation, incurred by an Indemnified Person with respect to any such threatened or actual action or proceeding.

### ***2. Prohibited Indemnification.***

The Corporation shall not indemnify any person if a judgment, or other final adjudication, adverse to any Indemnified Person establishes, or the Board of Directors in good faith determines, that such person’s acts were committed in bad faith or were the result of active and deliberate dishonesty and were material to the cause of action so adjudicated or that s/he personally garnered any financial profit or other advantage to which s/he was not legally entitled.

### ***3. Advancement of Expenses.***

The Corporation shall, on request of any Indemnified Person who is, or may be, entitled to be indemnified by the Corporation, pay or promptly reimburse an Indemnified Person’s reasonably incurred expenses in connection with a threatened or actual action or proceeding prior to its final disposition. However, no such advancement of expenses shall be made unless the Indemnified Person makes a written commitment to repay the Corporation, with interest, for any amount advanced for which it is ultimately determined that he/she is not entitled to be indemnified pursuant to statute or these By-Laws. An Indemnified Person shall cooperate with any request by the Corporation that common legal counsel be used by the parties for such action or proceeding who are similarly situated unless it would be inappropriate to do so because of real or potential conflicting interests of the parties.

### ***4. Indemnification of Others.***

Unless clearly prohibited by law or these By-Laws, the Board may approve indemnification by the Corporation, as set forth in Section 1 of this Article, or advancement of expenses as set forth in Section 3 of this Article, to a person (or her/his Testator or Administrator, if then deceased) who is or was employed by the Corporation or who is or was a volunteer for the Corporation, and who is made, or threatened to be made, a party in any action or proceeding, by reason of the fact of such employment or volunteer activity, including actions undertaken in connection with service at the request of the Corporation in any capacity for any other corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan or other enterprise.

### ***5. Determination of Indemnification.***

Indemnification mandated by a final order of a court of competent jurisdiction will be paid. After termination or disposition of any actual or threatened action or proceeding against an Indemnified Person, if indemnification has not been ordered by a court, the Board shall, upon written request by an Indemnified Person, determine whether and to what extent indemnification is permitted pursuant to these By-Laws. Before indemnification can occur, the Board must expressly find that such indemnification will not violate

the provisions of Section 2 herein. No Director with a personal interest in the outcome, or who is a party to such actual or threatened action or proceeding concerning which indemnification is sought, shall participate in this determination. If a quorum of disinterested Directors is not obtainable, the Board shall act only after receiving the opinion in writing of independent legal counsel that indemnification is proper in the circumstances under then applicable law and these By-Laws.

**6. *Binding Effect.***

Any person entitled to indemnification under these By-Laws has a legally enforceable right to indemnification which cannot be abridged by amendment of these By-Laws with respect to any event, action or omission occurring prior to the date of such amendment.

**7. *Insurance.***

The Corporation is required to purchase Directors and Officers (“D & O”) liability insurance coverage. To the extent permitted by law, such insurance shall insure the Corporation for any obligation it incurs as a result of this Article, or operation of law, and it may insure directly the Directors, Officers, employees or volunteers of the Corporation for liabilities against which they are not entitled to indemnification under this Article, as well as for liabilities against which they are entitled or permitted to be indemnified by the Corporation.

**8. *Nonexclusive Rights.***

The provisions of this Article shall not limit or exclude any other rights to which any person may be entitled under law or contract. The Board is authorized to enter into agreements on behalf of the Corporation with any Director, Officer, employee or volunteer to provide them rights to indemnification or advancement of expenses in connection with potential indemnification in addition to the provisions therefore in this Article, subject to the limitations of Section 2 herein.