



## **BYLAWS**

Of The

**GRANBURY ASSOCIATION**

**OF REALTORS® , Inc.**

**08/29/17**

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## **BYLAWS**

### **of the**

### **GRANBURY ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® , Inc.**

(Date adopted December 10, 1995, Effective January 1, 1996)

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## **Article I – Name**

**Section 1. Name.** The name of this organization shall be the:

**GRANBURY ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® , Inc.**

Hereinafter referred to as the “Association.”

**Section 2. REALTORS®.** Inclusion and retention of the Registered Collective Membership Mark REALTORS® in the name of the Association shall be governed by the Constitution and Bylaws of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® as from time to time amended.

## **Article II – Objectives**

The objectives of the Association are:

**Section 1.** To unite those engaged in the recognized branches of the real estate profession for the purpose of exerting a beneficial influence upon the profession and related interests.

**Section 2.** To promote and maintain high standards of conduct in the real estate profession as expressed in the Code of Ethics of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®.

**Section 3.** To provide a unified medium for real estate owners and those engaged in the real estate profession whereby their interests may be safeguarded and advanced.

**Section 4.** To further the interests of home and other real property ownership.

**Section 5.** To unite those engaged in the real estate profession in this community with the TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® and the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, thereby furthering their own objectives throughout the state and nation, and obtaining the benefits and privileges of membership therein.

**Section 6.** To designate, for the benefit of the public, individuals authorized to use the terms REALTOR® and REALTORS® as licensed, prescribed, and controlled by the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®.

### **Article III – Jurisdiction**

**Section 1.** The territorial jurisdiction of the Association as a member of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® is:

#### **HOOD AND SOMERVELL COUNTIES, STATE OF TEXAS**

**Section 2.** Territorial jurisdiction is defined to mean: The right and duty to control the use of the terms REALTOR® and REALTORS®, subject to the conditions set forth in these Bylaws and those of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, in return for which the Association agrees to protect and safeguard the property rights of the National Association in the terms.

### **Article IV – Membership**

**Section 1.** There shall be six classes of members, as follows:

**(a) REALTOR® Members.** REALTOR® members, whether primary or secondary shall be:

**(1)** Individuals who, as sole proprietors, partners, corporate officers, or branch office managers, are actively engaged in the real estate profession, including buying, selling, exchanging, renting or leasing, managing, appraising for others for compensation, counseling, building, developing or subdividing real estate, and who maintain or are associated with an established real estate office in the state of Texas or a state contiguous thereto. All persons who are partners in a partnership, or all officers in a corporation who are actively engaged in the real estate profession within the state or a state contiguous thereto shall qualify for REALTOR® membership only, and each is required to hold REALTOR® membership in an Association of REALTORS® within the state or a state contiguous thereto, unless otherwise qualified for Institute Affiliate membership as described in Section 1 (b) of Article IV.

In the case of a real estate firm, partnership, or corporation, whose business activity is substantially all commercial, only those principals actively engaged in the real estate business in connection with the same office, or any other offices within the jurisdiction of the Association in which one of the firm's principals holds REALTOR® membership, shall be required to hold REALTOR® membership, unless otherwise qualified for Institute Affiliate membership as described in Section 1 (b) of Article IV. (Amended 1/01)

**NOTE:** REALTOR® members may obtain membership in a “secondary” Association in another state.

(2) Individuals who are engaged in the real estate profession other than as sole proprietors, partners, corporate officers, or branch office managers, and are associated with a REALTOR® member and meet the qualifications set out in Article V.

(3) Franchise REALTOR® Membership. Corporate officers (who may be licensed or unlicensed) of a real estate brokerage franchise organization with at least one hundred fifty (150) franchisees located within the United States, its insular possessions and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, elected to membership pursuant to the provisions in the NAR Constitution and Bylaws. Such individuals shall enjoy all of the rights, privileges and obligations of REALTOR® membership (including compliance with the Code of Ethics), EXCEPT: obligations related to Association mandated education, meeting attendance, or indoctrination classes or other similar requirements; the right to use the term REALTOR® in connection with their franchise organization's name; the right to hold elective office in the Local Association, State Association and National Association.

(4) Primary and Secondary REALTOR® members. An individual is a primary member if the Association pays State and National dues based on such member. An individual is a secondary member if State and National dues are remitted through another Association. One of the principals in a real estate firm must be a Designated REALTOR® member of the Association in order for licensees affiliated with the firm to select the Association as their "primary" Board.

(5) Designated REALTOR® Members. Each firm shall designate, in writing, one REALTOR® member who shall be responsible for all duties and obligations of membership, including the obligation to arbitrate pursuant to Article 17 of the Code of Ethics and the payment of Association dues as established in Article X of the Bylaws. The "Designated REALTOR®" must be a sole proprietor, partner, corporate officer or branch office manager acting on behalf of the firm's principal(s), and must meet all other qualifications for REALTOR® membership established in Article V, Section 2, of the Bylaws.

(6) Elected Officers of the State Association. The current elected officers of the State Association of REALTORS® shall be members in good standing without further payment of dues. At the direction of the association, one of the current elected officers of the State Association of REALTORS® may be the delegate who casts the vote for the association at the Annual Meeting of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®. In accordance with the State Association bylaws, the elected officers of the State Association are the Chairman of the Board, Chairman-Elect, and Secretary/Treasurer. (Added July 2017)

**(b) Institute Affiliate Members.** Institute Affiliate members shall be individuals who hold a professional designation awarded by an Institute, Society, or Council affiliated with the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® that addresses a specialty area other than residential brokerage or individuals who otherwise hold a class of membership in such Institute, Society or Council that confers the right to hold office. Any such individual, if otherwise eligible, may elect to hold REALTOR® or REALTOR®-ASSOCIATE membership, subject to payment of applicable dues for such membership.

**(c) Affiliate Members.** Affiliate members shall be real estate owners and other individuals or firms who, while not engaged in the real estate profession as defined in paragraphs (a) or (b) of this Section, have interests requiring information concerning real estate, and are in sympathy with the objectives of the Association. Affiliate membership shall also be granted to individuals licensed or certified to engage in real estate practice who, if otherwise eligible, do not elect to hold REALTOR® membership in the Association, provided the applicant is engaged exclusively in a specialty of the real estate business other than brokerage of real property.

**(d) Public Service Members.** Public service members shall be individuals who are interested in the real estate profession as employees of or affiliated with educational, public utility, governmental, or other similar organizations, but are not engaged in the real estate profession on their own account or in an Association with an established real estate business.

**(e) Honorary Members.** Honorary members shall be individuals not engaged in the real estate profession who have performed notable service for the real estate profession, for the Association, or for the public.

**(f) Student Members.** Student members shall be individuals who are seeking an undergraduate or graduate degree with a specialization or major in real estate at institutions of higher learning, and who have completed at least two years of college and at least one college level course in real estate, but are not engaged in the real estate profession on their own account or not associated with an established real estate office.

## **Article V – Qualification and Election**

### **Section 1. Application.**

**(a) An application for membership** shall be made in such manner and form as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors and made available to anyone requesting it. The application form shall contain, among the statements to be signed by the applicant (1) that applicant agrees as a condition of membership to thoroughly familiarize himself/herself with the Code of Ethics of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Rules and Regulations of the Association, the State and National Associations, and if elected a member, will abide by the Constitutions and Bylaws and Rules and Regulations of the Association, State and NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, including the obligation to arbitrate controversies arising out of the real estate transactions as specified by Article 17 of the Code of Ethics, and as further specified in the Code of Ethics and Arbitration Manual of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, as from time to time amended, and (2) that applicant consents that the Association, through its Membership Committee or otherwise, may invite and receive information and comment about applicant from any member or other persons, and that applicant agrees that any information and comment furnished to the Association by any person in response to the invitation shall be conclusively deemed to be privileged and not form the

basis of any action for slander, libel, or defamation of character. The applicant shall, with the form of application, have access to a copy of the Bylaws, Constitution, Rules and Regulations, and Code of Ethics referred to above.

## **Section 2. Qualification.**

**(a) An applicant for REALTOR® Membership** who is a sole proprietor, partner, corporate officer, or branch office manager of a real estate firm shall supply evidence satisfactory to the Association through its Membership Committee or otherwise that he/she is actively engaged in the real estate profession, and maintains a current, valid real estate brokers or salesperson's license, or is licensed or certified by an appropriate state regulatory agency to engage in the appraisal of real property, has a place of business within the state or a state contiguous thereto (unless a secondary member), has no record of recent or pending bankruptcy\*, has no record of official sanctions involving unprofessional conduct\*\*, agrees to complete a course of instruction covering the Bylaws and Rules and Regulations of the Association, the Bylaws of the State Association, and the Constitution and Bylaws and Code of Ethics of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, and shall pass such reasonable and nondiscriminatory written examination thereon as may be required by the Committee, and shall agree that if elected to membership, he/she will abide by such Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, and Code of Ethics.

\* No recent or pending bankruptcy is intended to mean that the applicant or any real estate firm, in which the applicant is a sole proprietor, general partner, corporate officer, or branch office manager, is not involved in any pending bankruptcy or insolvency proceedings or, has not been adjudged bankrupt in the past three (3) years. If a bankruptcy proceeding as described above exists, membership may not be rejected unless the Association establishes that its interests and those of its members and the public could not be adequately protected by requiring that the bankrupt applicant pay in advance for Association and MLS fees for up to one (1) year from the date that membership is approved or from the date that the applicant is discharged from bankruptcy (whichever is later). In the event that an existing member initiates bankruptcy proceedings, the member may be placed on a "cash basis" from the date that bankruptcy is initiated until one (1) year from the date that the member has been discharged from bankruptcy.

\*\* No record of official sanctions involving unprofessional conduct is intended to mean that the Association may only consider judgments within the past three (3) years of violations of (1) civil rights laws; (2) real estate license laws; (3) or other laws prohibiting unprofessional conduct against the applicant rendered by the courts or other lawful authorities.

**(b) Individuals** who are actively engaged in the real estate profession other than as sole proprietors, partners, corporate officers, or branch office managers in order to qualify for REALTOR® membership, shall at the time of application, be associated either as an employee or as an independent contractor with a Designated REALTOR® member of the Association or a Designated REALTOR® member of another Association (if a secondary member), and shall complete a course of instruction covering the Bylaws and Rules and Regulations of the Association, the Bylaws of the State Association, and the Constitution and Bylaws and Code of Ethics of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, and shall pass such reasonable and nondiscriminatory written examinations thereon as may be

required by the Membership Committee, and shall agree, in writing, that if elected to membership he/she will abide by such Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, and the Code of Ethics.

**(c) The Board/Association** will also consider the following in determining an applicant's qualifications for REALTOR® membership:

1. All final findings of Code of Ethics violations and violations of other membership duties in this or any other REALTOR association within the past three (3) years,
2. Pending ethics complaints (or hearings),
3. Unsatisfied discipline pending,
4. Pending arbitration requests (or hearings),
5. Unpaid arbitration awards or unpaid financial obligations to any other association or association MLS,
6. Any misuse of the term REALTOR® or REALTORS® in the name of the applicant's firm.

“Provisional” membership may be granted in instances where ethics complaints or arbitration requests (or hearings) are pending in other associations, or where the applicant for membership has unsatisfied discipline pending in another association [except for violations of the Code of Ethics; See Article V, Section 2 (A) NOTE 2] provided all other qualifications for membership have been satisfied. Associations may reconsider the membership status of such individuals when all pending ethics and arbitration matters (and related discipline) have been resolved or if such matters are not resolved within six (6) months from the date that provisional membership is approved. Provisional members shall be considered REALTORS® and shall be subject to all of the same privileges and obligations of REALTOR® membership. If a member resigns from another association with an ethics complaint or arbitration request pending, the association may condition membership on the applicant's certification that he/she will submit to the pending ethics or arbitration proceedings (in accordance with the established procedures of the association to which the applicant has made application) and will abide by the decision of the hearing panel. (Amended 11/09)

### **Section 3. Election.**

The procedure for election to membership shall be as follows:

- (a)** The Association Executive shall determine whether the applicant is applying for the appropriate class of membership.
- (b)** The Board of Directors shall review the qualifications of the applicant and the recommendations of the Association Executive and then vote on the applicant's eligibility for membership. If the applicant receives a majority vote of the Board of Directors, he shall be declared elected to membership and shall be advised through written notice.
- (c)** The Board of Directors may not reject an application without providing the applicant with



advanced notice of the findings, an opportunity to appear before the Board of Directors, to call witnesses on his/her behalf, to be represented by counsel, and to make such statements as he/she deems relevant. The Board of Directors may also have counsel present. The Board of Directors shall require that written minutes be made of any hearing before it or any electronically or mechanically method records the proceedings.

**(d)** If the Board of Directors determines that the application should be rejected, it shall record its reasons with the Association Executive.

If the Board of Directors believes that denial of membership to the applicant may become the basis of litigation and a claim of damage by the applicant, it may specify that denial shall become effective upon entry in a suit by the Association for a declaratory judgment by a court of competent jurisdiction of a final judgment declaring that the rejection violates no rights of the applicant.

#### **Section 4. New Member Code of Ethics Orientation.**

Application for REALTOR® membership shall complete an orientation program on the Code of Ethics of not less than two hours and thirty minutes (2 ½ hours) of instructional time. This requirement does not apply to applicants for REALTOR® membership who have completed comparable orientation in another Association, provided that REALTOR® membership has been continuous, or that any break in membership is for one (1) year or less. Failure to satisfy this requirement within sixty (60) days of the date of application will result in denial of membership application.

**NOTE:** Orientation programs must meet the learning objectives and minimum criteria established from time to time by the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®. (Adopted 1/01)

#### **Section 5. Realtor Code of Ethics Training.**

Effective January 1, 2017, through December 31, 2018, and for successive two (2) year periods thereafter, each REALTOR® member of the Association (with the exception of REALTOR® members granted REALTOR® Emeritus status by the National Association) shall be required to complete ethics training of not less than two (2) hours and thirty (30) minutes (2 ½ hours) of instructional time. This requirement will be satisfied upon presentation of documentation that the member has completed a course of instruction conducted by this or another Association, the State Association of REALTORS®, the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® or any other recognized education institution or provided which meets the learning objectives and minimum criteria established by the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® from time to time. REALTOR® members who have completed training as a requirement of membership in another Association and REALTOR® members who have completed the New Member Code of Ethics Orientation during any TWO (2) year cycle shall not be required to complete additional ethics training until a new two (2) year cycle commences.

Failure to satisfy the required periodic ethics training shall be considered a violation of a membership duty. Failure to meet the requirement in any two (2) year cycle will result in suspension of membership for the first two (2) months (January and February) of the year following the end of any two (2) cycle or until the requirement is met, whichever occurs sooner. On March 1 of that year, the membership of a member who is still suspended as of that date will be automatically terminated. (Adopted 1/01, revised 5/05 and 01/17)

### **Section 6. Status Changes.**

**(a)** A REALTOR® who changes the conditions under which he/she holds membership shall be required to provide written notification to the Association within thirty (30) days. A REALTOR® (non-principal) who becomes a principal in the firm with which he/she has been licensed or, alternatively, becomes a principal in a new firm which will be comprised of REALTOR® principals may be required to satisfy any previously unsatisfied membership requirements applicable to REALTOR® (principal) members but shall, during the period of transition from one status of membership to another, be subject to all of the privileges and obligations of a REALTOR® (principal). If the REALTOR® (non-principal) does not satisfy the requirements established in these Bylaws for the category of membership to which they have transferred within thirty (30) days of the date they advised the Association of their change in status, their new membership application will terminate automatically unless otherwise so directed by the Board of Directors.

A REALTOR® (or REALTOR-ASSOCIATE®, where applicable) who is transferring his/her license from one firm comprised of REALTOR® principals to another firm comprised of REALTOR® principals, shall be subject to all the privileges and obligations of membership during the period of transition. If the transfer is not complete within thirty (30) days of the date the Association is advised of the disaffiliation with the current firm, membership will terminate automatically unless otherwise so directed by the Board of Directors.

**NOTE:** The Board of Directors, at its discretion, may waive any qualification which the applicant has already fulfilled in accordance with the Association's Bylaws.

**(b)** Any application fee related to a change in membership status shall be reduced by an amount equal to any application fee previously paid by the applicant.

**(c)** Dues shall be prorated from the first day of the month in which the member is notified of election by the Board of Directors and shall be based on the new membership status for the remainder of the year.

## **Article VI – Privileges and Obligations**

**Section 1.** The privileges and obligations of members, in addition to those otherwise provided in these Bylaws shall be specified in this Article.

**Section 2.** Any member of the Association may be reprimanded, fined, placed on probation, suspended, or expelled by the Board of Directors for a violation of these Bylaws and Association Rules and Regulations consistent with these Bylaws, after a hearing as provided in the Code of Ethics and Arbitration Manual of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®. Although members other than REALTORS® are not subject to the Code of Ethics, nor its enforcement by the Association, such members are encouraged to abide by the principles established in the Code of Ethics of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® and conduct their business and professional practices accordingly. Further, members other than REALTORS® may, upon recommendation of the Membership Committee, or upon recommendation by a hearing panel of the Professional Standards Committee, be subject to discipline as described above, for any conduct, which, in the opinion of the Board of Directors, applied on a nondiscriminatory basis, reflects adversely on the terms REALTOR® or REALTORS®, and the real estate industry or for conduct that is inconsistent with or adverse to the objectives and purposes of the local Board, the State Association, and the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®.

**Section 3.** Any REALTOR® member of the Association may be disciplined by the Board of Directors for violations of the Code of Ethics or other duties of membership, after a hearing as described in the Code of Ethics and Arbitration Manual of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, provided that the discipline imposed is consistent with the discipline authorized by the Professional Standards Committee of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® as set forth in the Code of Ethics and Arbitration Manual of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®.

**Section 4.** Resignations of members shall become effective when received in writing by the Board of Directors, provided, however, that if any member submitting the resignation is indebted to the Association for dues, fees, fines, or other assessments of the Association or any of its services, departments, divisions, or subsidiaries, the Board of Directors may condition the right of the resigning member to reapply for membership upon payment in full of all such monies owed.

**Section 5.** If a member resigns from the Association or otherwise causes membership to terminate with an ethics complaint pending, the complaint shall be processed until the decision of the association with respect to disposition of the complaint is final by this association (if the respondent does not hold membership in any other association) or by any other association in which the respondent continues to hold membership. If an ethics respondent resigns or otherwise causes membership in all Boards to terminate before an ethics complaint is filed alleging unethical conduct occurred while the respondent was a REALTOR®, the complaint, once filed, shall be processed until the decision of the association with respect to disposition of the complaint is final. In any instance where an ethics hearing is held subsequent to an ethics respondent's resignation or membership termination, any discipline ratified by the Board of Directors shall be held in abeyance until such time as the respondent rejoins an association of REALTORS®.

(a) If a member resigns or otherwise causes membership to terminate, the duty to submit to arbitration (or to mediation if required by the association) continues in effect even after membership lapses or is terminated, provided the dispute arose while the former member was a REALTOR. (Revised 01/17)

**Section 6. REALTOR® Member.** REALTOR® members, whether primary or secondary, in good standing whose financial obligations to the Association are paid in full shall be entitled to vote and to hold elective office in the Association; may use the term REALTOR® and REALTORS®, which use shall be subject to the provisions of Article III; and have the primary responsibility to safeguard and promote the standards, interests, and welfare of the Association and the real estate profession.

(a) If a REALTOR® member is a sole proprietor in a firm, a partner in a partnership or an officer in a corporation, and is suspended or expelled, the firm, partnership or corporation shall not use the terms REALTOR® or REALTORS® in connection with its business during the period of suspension, or until re-admission to REALTOR® membership, or unless connection with the firm, partnership or corporation is severed, or management control is relinquished, whichever may apply. The membership of all other principals, partners, or corporate officers shall suspend or terminate during the period of suspension of the disciplined member, or until re-admission of the disciplined member, or unless connection of the disciplined member with the firm, partnership, or corporation is severed, or unless the REALTOR® who is suspended or expelled removes himself/herself from any form or degree of management control of the firm for the term of the suspension or until re-admission to membership, whichever may apply. Removal of an individual from any form or degree of management control must be certified to the Board of Directors by the member who is being suspended or expelled, and by the individual who is assuming management control and the signatures of such certification must be notarized. In the event the suspended or expelled member is so certified to have relinquished all form or degree of management control of the firm, the membership of other partners, corporate officers, or other individuals affiliated with the firm shall not be affected, and the firm, partnership or corporation may continue to use the terms REALTOR® and REALTORS® in connection with its business during the period of suspension or until the former member is admitted to membership in the Association. The foregoing is not intended to preclude a suspended or expelled member from functioning as an employee or independent contractor, providing no management control is exercised. Further, the membership of REALTORS® other than principals who are employed or affiliated as independent contractors with the disciplined member shall suspend or terminate during the period of suspension of the disciplined member or until re-admission of the disciplined member, or unless connection of the disciplined member with the firm, partnership, or corporation is severed, or management control is relinquished, or unless the REALTOR® member (non-principal) elects to sever his/her connection with the REALTOR® and affiliate with another REALTOR® member in good standing in the Association, whichever may apply.

If a REALTOR® member other than a sole proprietor in a firm, partner in a partnership, or an

officer of a corporation is suspended or expelled, the use of the terms REALTOR® or REALTORS® by the firm, partnership or corporation shall not be affected.

**(b)** In any action taken against a REALTOR® member for suspension or expulsion under Section 6(a) hereof, notice of such action shall be given to all REALTORS® employed by or affiliated as independent contractors with such REALTOR® member and they shall be advised that the provisions in Article VI Section 6(a) shall apply.

**Section 7. Institute Affiliate Members.** Institute Affiliate members shall have rights and privileges and be subject to obligations prescribed by the Board of Directors consistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®.

**NOTE:** Local Associations establish the rights and privileges to be conferred on Institute Affiliate members except that no Institute Affiliate member may be granted the right to use the term REALTOR®, REALTOR-ASSOCIATE®, or the REALTOR® logo; to serve as President of the local Association; or to be a participant in the local Association's Multiple Listing Service. (Amended 1/02)

**Section 8. Affiliate Members.** Affiliate members shall have rights and privileges and be subject to obligations prescribed by the Board of Directors.

**Section 9. Public Service Members.** Public Service members shall have rights and privileges and be subject to obligations prescribed by the Board of Directors.

**Section 10. Honorary Members.** Honorary membership shall confer only the right to attend meetings and participate in discussions.

**Section 11. Student Members.** Student members shall have rights and privileges and be subject to obligations prescribed by the Board of Directors.

**Section 12. Certification by REALTOR®.** "Designated" REALTOR® members of the Association shall certify to the Board of Directors during the month of January on a form provided by the Association, a complete listing of all individuals licensed or certified in the REALTOR'S® office(s) and shall designate a primary Board for each individual who holds membership. Designated REALTORS® shall also identify any non-member licensees in the REALTOR'S® office(s) and if Designated REALTOR® dues have been paid to another Association based on said non-member licensees, the Designated REALTOR® shall identify the Association to which dues have been remitted. These declarations shall be used for purposes of calculating dues under Article X, Section 2(a) of the Bylaws. "Designated" REALTOR® members shall also notify the Board of any additional individual(s) licensed or certified with the firm(s) within ten (10) days of the date of affiliation or severance of the individual.

**Section 13. Legal Liability Training.** Within two (2) years of the date of election to membership, and every two (2) years thereafter, each REALTOR® member of the Board of Directors shall be required to demonstrate that they have completed a course of instruction on anti-trust laws,

agency laws, civil rights laws or the REALTORS® Code of Ethics, its interpretation and meaning and/or the procedures related to its enforcement.

This requirement will be considered satisfied upon presentation of evidence that the member has completed three (3) classroom hours in an educational program conducted by another local Association of REALTORS®, the State Association of REALTORS®, the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, or any of its affiliated Institutes, Societies or Councils, or any other recognized educational institution which, in the opinion of the Board of Directors, is an adequate substitute for the training programs conducted by the Association. Failure to satisfy this requirement biennially will result in membership being suspended from the date it otherwise would be renewed until such time that the member provides evidence of completion of the aforementioned educational requirements. (Amended 4/09)

**NOTE:** Any education requirement must comply with Interpretation No. 37 of Article I, Section 2, Bylaws, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®.

**Section 14. Harassment.** Any member of the Association may be reprimanded, placed on probation, suspended or expelled for harassment of any Association or MLS employee Board Officer or Director after an investigation in accordance with the procedures of the Association. As used in this Section, harassment means any verbal or physical conduct including threatening or obscene language, unwelcome sexual advances, stalking, actions including strikes, shoves, kicks, or other similar physical contact, or threats to do the same, or any other conduct with the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance by creating a hostile, intimidating or offensive work environment. The decision of the appropriate disciplinary action to be taken shall be made by the investigating team comprised of the President, and President-Elect and/or Vice President and one member of the Board of Directors selected by the highest-ranking officer not named in the complaint, upon consultation with legal counsel for the Association. Disciplinary action may include any sanction authorized in the association's Code of Ethics and Arbitration Manual. If the complaint names the President, President-Elect or Vice President, they may not participate in the proceedings and shall be replaced by the Immediate Past President or, alternatively, by another member of the Board of Directors selected by the highest-ranking officer not named in the complaint. (Amended ~~5/03~~ 5/08)

**NOTE:** Suggested procedures for processing complaints of sexual harassment are available online through <http://www.REALTOR.org>, or from the Member Policy Department.

## **Article VII – Professional Standards and Arbitration**

**Section 1.** The responsibility of the Board of Directors of the Association and of Association members relating to the enforcement of the Code of Ethics, the disciplining of members, and the arbitration of disputes, and the organization and procedures incident thereto shall be governed by the Code of Ethics and Arbitration Manual of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF

REALTORS<sup>®</sup>, as amended from time to time, which by this reference incorporated into these Bylaws, provided, however, that any provision deemed inconsistent with state law shall be deleted or amended to comply with state law.

**Section 2.** It shall be the duty and responsibility of every REALTOR<sup>®</sup> member of this Association to abide by the Constitution and Bylaws and the Rules and Regulations of the Association, the Constitution and Bylaws of the State Association, the Constitution and Bylaws of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS<sup>®</sup>, and to abide by the Code of Ethics of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS<sup>®</sup> including the duty to arbitrate controversies arising out of real estate transactions as specified by Article 17 of the Code of Ethics and as further defined and in accordance with the procedures set forth in the Code of Ethics and Arbitration Manual of this Association as from time to time amended.

### **Article VIII – Use of the Terms REALTOR<sup>®</sup> and REALTORS<sup>®</sup>**

**Section 1.** Use of the terms REALTOR<sup>®</sup> and REALTORS<sup>®</sup> by Association members shall, at all times, be subject to the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS<sup>®</sup> and to the Rules and Regulations prescribed by its Board of Directors. The Association shall have the authority to control, jointly and in full cooperation with the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS<sup>®</sup>, use of the terms within its jurisdiction. Any misuse of the terms by members is a violation of a membership duty and may subject members to disciplinary action by the Board of Directors after a hearing as provided for in the Association's Code of Ethics and Arbitration Manual. (Amended 6/06)

**Section 2.** REALTOR<sup>®</sup> members of the Association shall have the privilege of using the terms REALTOR<sup>®</sup> and REALTORS<sup>®</sup> in connection with their places of business within the state or a state contiguous thereto so long as they remain REALTOR<sup>®</sup> members in good standing. No other class of members shall have this privilege.

**Section 3.** A REALTOR<sup>®</sup> member who is a principal of a real estate firm, partnership, or corporation may use the terms REALTOR<sup>®</sup> and REALTORS<sup>®</sup> only if all the principals of such firm, partnership, or corporation who are actively engaged in the real estate profession within the state or a state contiguous thereto are REALTOR<sup>®</sup> members or Institute Affiliate members as described in Section I (b) of Article IV.

**(a)** In the case of a REALTOR<sup>®</sup> member who is a principal of a real estate firm, partnership, or corporation whose business activity is substantially all commercial, the right to use the term REALTOR<sup>®</sup> or REALTORS<sup>®</sup> shall be limited to office locations in which a principal, partner, corporate officer, or branch office manager of the firm, partnership, or corporation holds REALTOR<sup>®</sup> membership. If a firm, partnership, or corporation operates additional places of business in which no principal, partner, corporate officer, or branch office manager holds REALTOR<sup>®</sup> membership, the term REALTOR<sup>®</sup> or REALTORS<sup>®</sup> may not be used in any reference to those additional places of business. (Amended 1/01)

**Section 4.** Institute Affiliate members shall not use the terms REALTOR® or REALTORS®, or the imprint of the emblem seal of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®.

## **Article IX – State and National Memberships**

**Section 1.** The Association shall be a member of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® and the Texas Association of REALTORS®. By reason of the Association’s membership, each REALTOR® member of the Member Association shall be entitled to membership in the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® and the Texas Association of REALTORS® without further payment of dues. The Association shall continue as a member of the State and National Associations, unless by a majority vote of all of its REALTOR® members, decision is made to withdraw, in which case the State and National Associations shall be notified at least one month in advance of the date designated for the termination of such membership.

**Section 2.** The Association recognizes the exclusive property rights of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® in the terms REALTOR® and REALTORS®. The Association shall discontinue use of the terms in any form in its name, upon ceasing to be a member of the National Association, or upon a determination by the Board of Directors of the National Association that it has violated the conditions imposed upon the terms.

**Section 3.** The Association adopts the Code of Ethics of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® and agrees to enforce the Code among its REALTOR® members. The Board and all of its members agree to abide by the Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, and policies of the National Association and the Texas Association of REALTORS®.

## **Article X – Dues and Assessments**

**Section 1. Application Fee.** The Board of Directors may adopt an application fee for REALTOR® membership in a reasonable amount, not exceeding three times the amount of the annual dues for REALTOR® membership, which shall be required to accompany each application for REALTOR® membership and which shall become the property of the Association upon final approval of the application. (Amended 1/02)

**Section 2. Dues.** The annual membership dues shall be as follows:

(a) REALTOR® Members. The annual dues of each Designated REALTOR® member shall be in such amount as established annually by the Board of Directors times the number of real estate salespersons and licensed or certified appraisers who (1) are employed by or affiliated as independent contractors, or who are otherwise directly or indirectly licensed with such REALTOR® member, and (2) are not REALTOR® members of any Association in the state contiguous thereto, or Institute Affiliate members of the Association. In calculating the dues



payable to the Association by a designated REALTOR® member, non-member licensees as defined in Section 2(a) (1) and (2) of this Article shall not be included in the computation of dues if the Designated REALTOR® has paid dues based on said non-member licensees in another Association in the state contiguous thereto, provided the Designated REALTOR® notifies the Association, in writing, of the identity of the Association to which dues have been remitted.

In the case of a Designated REALTOR® member in a firm, partnership, or corporation whose business activity is substantially all commercial, assessments for non-member licensees shall be limited to licensees affiliated with the Designated REALTOR® [as defined in (1) and (2) of this paragraph] in the office where the Designated REALTOR® holds membership, and any other offices in a firm located within the jurisdiction of the Association. (Amended 1/01)

**(1)** For the purpose of this Section, a REALTOR® member of a Member Association shall be held to be any member who has a place or places of business within the state or a state contiguous thereto and who, as a principal, partner, corporate officer, or branch office manager of a real estate firm, partnership, or corporation, is actively engaged in the real estate profession as defined in Article III Section I, of the Constitution of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®. An individual shall be deemed to be licensed with a REALTOR® if the license of the individual is held by the REALTOR®, or by any broker who is licensed with the REALTOR®, or by any entity in which the REALTOR® has a direct or indirect ownership interest which is engaged in other aspects of the real estate business [except as provided for in Section 2 (a) (1) hereof] provided that such licensee is not otherwise included in the computation of dues payable by the principal, partner, or corporate officer or branch office manager of the entity.

A REALTOR® with a direct or indirect ownership interest in an entity engaged exclusively in soliciting and/or referring clients and customers to the REALTOR® for consideration on a substantially exclusive basis shall annually file with the Association, on a form approved by the Association, a list of the licensees affiliated with that entity, and shall certify that all of the licensees affiliated with the entity are solely engaged in referring clients and customers and are not engaged in listing, selling, leasing, managing, counseling or appraising real property. The individuals disclosed on such form shall not be deemed to be licensed with the REALTOR® filing the form for purposes of this Section, and shall not be included in calculating the annual dues of the Designated REALTOR®. Designated REALTORS® shall notify the association within three (3) days of any change in status of licensees in a referral firm.

*The exemption for any licensee included on the certification form shall automatically be revoked upon the individual being engaged in real estate licensed activities (listing, selling, leasing, renting, managing, counseling, or appraising real property) other than referrals and dues for the current fiscal year shall be payable.*

Members' dues shall be prorated for any licensee included on a certification form submitted to the Association who, during the same calendar year, applies for REALTOR® or REALTOR-

ASSOCIATE® membership in the Association. However, membership dues shall not be prorated if the licensee held REALTOR® or REALTOR-ASSOCIATE® membership during the preceding calendar year. (Amended 11/09 & 11/14)

**(b) REALTOR® Members.** The annual dues of REALTOR® members other than the Designated REALTOR® shall be established annually by the Board of Directors.

**(c) Institute Affiliate Members.** The annual dues of each Institute Affiliate member shall be as established in Article II of the Bylaws of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®.

**NOTE:** The Institute, Societies and Councils of the National Association shall be responsible for collecting and remitting dues to the National Association for Institute Affiliate members at the current rate. The National Association shall credit at the current rate the account of a local Association for each Institute Affiliate member whose office address is within the assigned territorial jurisdiction of that Association, provided, however, if the office location is also within the territorial jurisdiction of a Commercial Overlay Board (COB), the current amount will be credited to the COB, unless the Institute Affiliate member directs that the dues be distributed to the other Association. The National Association shall also credit at the current rate the account of State Associations for each Institute Affiliate member whose office address is located within the territorial jurisdiction of the State Association. Local and State Associations may not establish any additional entrance, initiation fees or dues for Institute Affiliate members, but may provide service packages to which Institute Affiliate members may voluntarily subscribe. (Amended 1/02)

**(d) Affiliate Members.** The annual dues of each Affiliate member shall be in such amount as established annually by the Board of Directors.

**(e) Public Service Members.** The annual dues of each Public Service member shall be as established annually by the Board of Directors.

**(f) Honorary Members.** Dues payable, if any, shall be in such amount as established annually by the Board of Directors.

**(g) Student Members.** Dues payable, if any, shall be in such amount as established annually by the Board of Directors.

### **Section 3. Dues & Fees Payable.**

#### **(a) Annual Dues:**

(1) REALTOR® and Affiliate dues shall be payable annually in advance of the first day of the new year – January 1<sup>st</sup>. (Amended 1/05, Adopted 08/16)

(2) Dues for new members shall be computed from the date of application and granting of provisional membership and shall be prorated for the remainder of the year. (Amended 1/05)

a. In the event a sales licensee or licensed or certified appraiser who holds REALTOR® membership is dropped for non-payment of Association dues, and the individual remains with the Designated REALTOR'S® firm, the dues obligation of the Designated REALTOR® [as set forth in Article X, Section 2 (a)] will be increased to reflect the addition of a non-member licensee. Dues shall be calculated from the first day of the current fiscal year and are payable within 30 days of the notice of termination.

(3) Refunds - National (NAR); State (TAR) and Local (GAR) Association Dues are effective January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Therefore, no refund of dues if notification is received after the due date of December 31<sup>st</sup>. (Adopted 08/16)

**(b) Quarterly Fees:** MLS and/or SUPRA Fees are billed on a quarterly basis and due on or before the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the beginning Quarter.

#### **Section 4. Non-Payment of Financial Obligations.**

##### **(a) Annual Dues:**

(1) A late fee of \$25.00 will be assessed to the REALTOR® or Affiliate **AND** services (MLS and/or SUPRA) will be suspended if dues are not received by **January 15<sup>th</sup>**. Notice of delinquency, suspension and late fee assessment will be sent to the REALTOR® and the REALTOR'S Broker, at that time. (Adopted 08/16)

(2) A late fee of \$25.00 will be assessed to both the REALTOR® **AND** the REALTOR'S® Broker AND Membership with GAR, for the REALTOR®, will be terminated if dues are not received by **January 31<sup>st</sup>**. (Adopted 08/16)

a. A former Member who has had his/her membership terminated for non-payment of dues, fees, fines or other assessments duly levied in accordance with the provisions of these Bylaws or the provisions of other Rules and Regulations of the Association or any of its services, departments, divisions or subsidiaries, may apply for reinstatement in a manner prescribed for new applicants for membership, **after** making payment in full of all accounts due (this includes REALTOR® and Broker, if applicable, late fees) as of the date of suspension and/or termination.

(3) On **March 31<sup>st</sup>**, both TAR and NAR will be notified that the REALTOR® is no longer a Member of GAR.

**(b) Quarterly Fees:** If payment of MLS and/or SUPRA Fees are not paid within three (3) days from the beginning of the quarter for which it is due, the Member's services shall be discontinued and a reconnect fee of \$25.00 will be imposed as determined by the Board of Directors (7/00; Amended 08/16).

**(c) Reinstating REALTOR®:**

(1) REALTOR® Member who terminates membership must pay upon return the full Application Fee (\$100.00) and must go through “New Member Orientation”, if their membership has been terminated in excess of one (1) year. (B.O.D. Action 4/16/04)

(2) If the termination has been less than one (1) year, he/she may apply for reinstatement in a manner prescribed for new applicants for membership. All Annual Dues with GAR, TAR and NAR will be due. There will be no prorating based on the time of the year the Member reinstates.

a. NAR and TAR will not prorate annual dues if the member “reappears” within the same billing year to be reinstated either at the same Board and/or a new Board. The Member is considered a “New Member”. However, the Member’s join date will remain the same in NRDS. That is the date that NAR and TAR uses in its dues report calculations. (08/16)

**(d) Disputes:** No action shall be taken to suspend or expel a Member for non-payment of disputed amounts, until the amount owed has been confirmed by the Board of Directors.

**Section 5. Deposit and Expenditures.** Deposits and expenditures of funds shall be in accordance with policies established by the Board of Directors. Capital expenditures in excess of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) may not be made unless authorized by a simple majority of the Association members eligible to vote, provided members are notified at least one (1) week prior to the vote of the content. (Amended 4/09)

**Section 6. Notice of Dues, Fees, Fines, Assessments, and Other Financial Obligations of Members.** All dues, fees, fines, assessments, and other financial obligations to the Association or Association’s Multiple Listing Service shall be noticed to the delinquent Association member, in writing, setting forth the amount owed and due date.

**Section 7. The dues of REALTOR® members, who are REALTOR® Emeriti** (as recognized by the National Association), Past Presidents of the National Association, or recipients of the Distinguished Service Award, shall be as determined by the Board of Directors.

**NOTE:** A member Association’s dues obligation to the National Association is reduced by an amount equal to the amount which the Association is assessed for a REALTOR® member, times the number of REALTOR® Emeriti (as recognized by the National Association), Past Presidents of the National Association and recipients of the Distinguished Service Award of the National Association who are REALTOR® members of the Association. The dues obligation of such individuals to the local Association should be reduced to reflect the reduction on the Association’s dues obligation to the National Association. The Association may, at its option, choose to have no dues requirement for such individuals except as may be required to meet the Association’s obligation to the state Association with respect to such individuals. Member

Associations should determine whether the dues payable by the Association to the State Association are reduced with respect to such individuals. It should be noted that this does not affect a Designated REALTOR'S® dues obligation to the Association with respect to those licensees employed by or affiliated with the Designated REALTOR® who are not members of the local Association.

## **Article XI – Officers and Directors**

**Section 1. Officers.** The elected officers of the Board shall be: a President, a President-Elect, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. The Secretary and Treasurer may be the same person. They shall be elected for terms of one year with the exception of the President- Elect and President who shall serve a three-year term beginning in the first year as President-Elect, the second year as President, and the final year as Immediate Past President. (Amended 4/09) Officers are limited to two consecutive terms in any one position. (Amended 11/ 11)

**Section 2. Duties of Officers.** The duties of the officers shall be such as their titles, by general usage, would indicate and such as may be assigned to them by the Directors. It shall be the particular duty of the Association Executive to keep the records of the Association and to carry on all necessary correspondence with the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® and the Texas Association of REALTORS®.

**Section 3. Board of Directors.** The governing body of the Association shall be a Board of Directors consisting of the elected officers, the immediate Past President and five (5) elected REALTOR® members of the Association, and the Texas Association of REALTORS® Director. Directors shall be elected to serve for terms of three years. As many Directors shall be elected each year as are required to fill vacancies. Directors are limited to two consecutive terms. (Amended 11/11) The Texas Association of REALTORS® Director is elected by the Board of Directors and shall serve for a term of three (3) years.

### **Section 4. Election of Officers and Directors.**

**(a)** At least two (2) months before the annual election, a Nominating Committee of at least three (3) REALTOR® members shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors. The Nominating Committee shall submit a minimum of one (1) name for each office except for that of President. The report of the Nominating Committee shall be mailed or where permitted by state law, electronically transmitted to each member eligible to vote at least three (3) weeks preceding the election. Additional candidates for the offices to be filled may be placed in nomination by petition signed by at least 10% of the REALTOR® members eligible to vote. The petition shall be filed with the Association Executive at least two (2) weeks before the election. The Association Executive shall send notice of such additional nominations to all members eligible to vote before the election. (Amended 4/09)

**(b)** The election of Officers and Directors shall take place at the annual meeting. Election shall be by ballot. The ballot shall contain the names of all candidates and the offices for which they are nominated. Absentee voting will be held at the Association office fourteen (14) working days before an election in person in a sealed voting box or by electronic transmission and will close three (3) working days before the election.

**(c)** The President, with the approval of the Board of Directors, shall appoint an Election Committee of at least three (3) REALTOR® members to conduct the election. In the event of a tie vote, the issue shall be determined by lot (Amended 4/09)

**Section 5. Vacancies.** Vacancies among the Officers and the Board of Directors shall be filled by a simple majority vote of the Board of Directors until the next annual election.

**Section 6. Removal of Officers and Directors.** In the event that an Officer or Director is deemed to be incapable of fulfilling the duties for which elected, but will not resign from office voluntarily, the Officer or Director may be removed from office under the following procedures:

**(a)** A petition requiring the removal of an Officer or Director and signed by not less than one-third (1/3) of the voting membership or a majority of all Directors shall be filed with the President, or if the President is the subject of the petition, with the next-ranking officer, and shall be specifically set forth the reasons the individual is deemed to be disqualified from further service.

**(b)** Upon receipt of the petition, and not less than twenty (20) days or more than forty-five (45) days thereafter, a special meeting of the voting membership of the Association shall be held, and the sole business of the meeting shall be to consider the charge against the Officer or Director, and to render a decision on such petition.

**(c)** The special meeting shall be noticed to all voting members at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting, and shall be conducted by the President of the Association unless the President's continued service in office is being considered at the meeting. In such case, the next-ranking officer will conduct the meeting of the hearing by the members. Provided a quorum is present, a three-fourths vote of members present and voting shall be required for removal from office.

**Section 7. Association Executive.** There shall be an Association Executive, appointed by the Board of Directors, who shall be the chief administrative officer of the Association. The Association Executive shall have the authority to hire, supervise, evaluate and terminate other staff, if any, and shall perform such other duties as prescribed by the Board of Directors.

**Section 8. Executive Committee** shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

## **Article XII – Meetings**

**Section 1. Annual Meetings.** The annual meeting of the Association shall be held during September or October of each year, or as otherwise designated by the Board of Directors. The date, place, and hour will also be determined by the Board. (Amended 08/16)

**Section 2. Meetings of Directors.** The Board of Directors shall designate a regular time and place of meetings. Absence from four (4) regular meetings shall be construed as resignation. Absence is defined as missing more than fifty percent (50%) of any scheduled meeting (Amended 11/11). A quorum for the transaction of business shall consist of fifty percent (50%) of the Board members being present. (Amended 4/09)

**Section 3. Other Meetings.** Meetings of the members may be held at other times as the President or the Board of Directors may determine, or upon the written request of at least ten percent (10%) of the members eligible to vote.

**Section 4. Notice of Meetings.** Written notice shall be given to every member entitled to participate in the meeting at least one (1) week preceding all meetings. If a special meeting is called, it shall be accompanied by a statement of the purpose of the meeting.

**Section 5. Quorum.** A quorum for the transaction of business shall consist of fifteen percent (15%) of the members eligible to vote, excluding Board of Director's meetings. (Amended 08/16)

**Section 6. Electronic Transmission.** The Association Executive or President can require a vote of the Officers and Board of Directors through electronic transmission.

**Section 7. Action without a Meeting.** Unless specifically prohibited by the Articles of Incorporation, any action required or permitted to be taken at a meeting of the Board of Directors may be taken without a meeting if consent in writing, setting forth the action so taken shall be signed by all of the Directors. The consent shall be evidenced by one or more written approvals, each of which sets forth the action taken and bears the signature of one or more Directors. All the approvals evidencing the consent shall be delivered to the Secretary to be filed in the corporate records. The action taken shall be effective when all the Directors have approved the consent unless the consent specifies a different effective date. (Adopted 08/16)

**Section 8. Attendance by Telephone.** Members of the Board of Directors may participate in any meeting through the use of a conference telephone or similar communications equipment by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other. Such participation shall be at the discretion of the President and shall consist of presence at the meeting. (Adopted 08/16)

## Article XIII – Committees

**Section 1. Standing Committees.** The President shall appoint from among the ~~REALTOR~~<sup>®</sup> members, subject to confirmation by the Board of Directors, the following standing committees: (Amended 08/12)

Strategic Planning	Public Relations	Membership
Professional Development	Finance	TREPAC
Bylaws	MLS	Special Events
Governmental Affairs		

**Section 2. Special Committees.** The President shall appoint, subject to confirmation by the Board of Directors, special committee task force groups or advisory groups as deemed necessary.

**Section 3. Organization.** All committees shall be of such size and shall have duties, functions, and powers as assigned by the President or the Board of Directors, except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws.

**Section 4. President.** The President shall be an ex-officio member of all standing committees and shall be notified of their meetings.

**Section 5. Action without a Meeting.** Any committee may act by unanimous consent in writing without a meeting. The consent shall be evidenced by one or more written approvals, each of which sets forth the action taken and bears the signature of one or more of the members of the committee. (Adopted 08/16)

**Section 6. Attendance by Telephone.** Members of a committee may participate in any meeting through the use of a conference telephone or similar communications equipment by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other. Such participation shall be at the discretion of the President and shall consist of presence at the meeting. (Adopted 08/16)

## Article XIV – Fiscal and Elective Year

**Section 1.** The fiscal year of the Association shall be January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Section 2.** The elective year of the Association shall be January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>. (Adopted 08/16)



## **Article XV – Rules of Order**

**Section 1.** Robert’s Rules of Order, latest edition, shall be recognized as the authority governing the meetings of the Association, its Board of Directors, and committees, in all instances wherein its provisions do not conflict with these Bylaws.

## **Article XVI – Amendments**

**Section 1.** These Bylaws may be amended by the majority vote, provided fifteen percent (15%) (Amended 08/16) of the members qualified to vote have participated, and provided the substance of such proposed amendment or amendments shall be plainly stated in the announcement of the meeting, except that the Board of Directors may, at any regular or special meeting of the board of Directors at which a majority is present, approve amendments to the Bylaws which are mandated by NAR policy. (Amended 4/09)

**Section 2.** Notice of all meetings at which amendments are to be considered shall be mailed or electronically transferred to every member eligible to vote at least one (1) week prior to the vote.

**Section 3.** Amendments to these Bylaws affecting the admission or qualification of REALTOR® and Institute Affiliate members, the use of the terms REALTOR® and REALTORS®, or any alteration in the territorial jurisdiction of the Association shall become effective upon their approval as authorized by the Board of Directors by the National Association of REALTORS®.

## **Article XVII – Dissolution**

**Section 1.** Upon the dissolution of this Association, the Board of Directors, after providing for the payment of all obligations, shall distribute any remaining assets to the Texas Association of REALTORS® or, within its discretion, to any other non-profit tax-exempt organization.

## **Article XVIII – Multiple Listing**

**Section 1. Authority.** The Association of REALTORS® shall maintain for the use of its members a Multiple Listing Service which shall be subject to the Bylaws of the Association of REALTORS® and such Rules and Regulations as may be hereinafter adopted.

**Section 2. Purpose.** A Multiple Listing Service is a means by which authorized participants make blanket unilateral offers of compensation to other participants (acting either as subagents, buyer agents, or in any other agency or non-agency capacities as defined by law); by which cooperation among participants is enhanced: by which information is accumulated and

disseminated to enable authorized participants to prepare appraisals, analyses, and other valuations of real property for bona fide clients and customers; by which participants engaging in real estate appraisal contribute to common databases; and is a facility for the orderly correlation and dissemination of listing information so participants may better serve their clients and the public. Entitlement to compensation is determined by the cooperating broker's performance as a procuring cause of the sale (or lease). (Amended 1/05)

**Section 3. Participation.** Any REALTOR® of this or any other Association who is a principal, partner, or corporate officer, or branch manager acting on behalf of the principal, without further qualification, except as otherwise stipulated in these bylaws, shall be eligible to participate in Multiple Listing upon agreeing, in writing, to conform to the rules and regulations thereof and to pay the costs incidental thereto. However, under no circumstances is any individual or firm, regardless of membership status, entitled to Multiple Listing Service "Membership" or "Participation" unless they hold a current, valid real estate broker's license and offer or accept compensation to and from other participants or are licensed or certified by an appropriate state regulatory agency to engage in the appraisal of real property. Use of information developed by or published by an Association Multiple Listing Service is strictly limited to the activities authorized under a participant's licensure(s) or certification and unauthorized uses are prohibited. Further, none of the foregoing is intended to convey "participation" or "membership" or any right of access to information developed or published by an Association's Multiple Listing Service where access to such information is prohibited by law. (Amended 11/08)

Mere possession of a broker's license is not sufficient to qualify for MLS participation. Rather, the requirement that an individual or firm offers or accepts cooperation and compensation means that the participant actively endeavors during the operation of its real estate business to list real property of the type listed on the MLS and/or to accept offers of cooperation and compensation made by listing brokers or agents in the MLS. "Actively" means on a continual and ongoing basis during the operation of the participant's real estate business. The "actively" requirement is not intended to preclude MLS participation by a participant or potential participant that operates a real estate business on a part-time, seasonal, or similarly time-limited basis or that has its business interrupted by periods of relative inactivity occasioned by market conditions. Similarly, the requirement is not intended to deny MLS participation to a participant or potential participant who has not achieved a minimum number of transactions despite good faith efforts. Nor is it intended to permit an MLS to deny participation based on the level of service provided by the participant or potential participant as long as the level of service satisfies state law. (Adopted 11/08)

The key is that the participant or potential participant actively endeavors to make or accept offers of cooperation and compensation with respect to properties of the type that are listed on the MLS in which participation is sought. This requirement does not permit an MLS to deny participation to a participant or potential participant that operates a "Virtual Office Website" (VOW) (including a VOW that the participant uses to refer customers to other participants) if the participant or potential participant actively endeavors to make or accept offers of

cooperation and compensation. A MLS may evaluate whether a participant or potential participant actively endeavors during the operation of its real estate business to offer or accept cooperation and compensation only if the MLS has a reasonable basis to believe that the participant or potential participant is in fact not doing so. The membership requirement shall be applied in a nondiscriminatory manner to all participants and potential participants.

(Adopted 11/08)

**NOTE:** The requirements of (1) an office within the Association's jurisdiction or an Association contiguous thereto; (2) no record of recent or pending bankruptcy; and (3) no record of official sanctions involving unprofessional conduct; may be deleted from this Section at the option of each Association. Moreover, any limitations or restrictions imposed on participation or membership shall be no more stringent than permissible under the National Association's Membership Qualification Criteria.

Any applicant for MLS participation and any licensee (including licensed or certified appraisers) affiliated with a MLS Participant who has access to and use of the MLS-generated information shall complete an orientation program of not less than two (2) classroom hours devoted to MLS rules and regulations and computer training related to MLS information entry and retrieval within thirty (30) days after access has been provided.

**Section 4. Supervision.** The activity shall be operated under the supervision of the Multiple Listing Committee, in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the North Texas Real Estate System, Inc. (NTREIS) MLS, subject to approval of the Board of Directors of the Association of REALTORS®. (Amended 4/09)

**Section 5. Appointment of Committee.** The President shall appoint, subject to the confirmation of the Board of Directors, a Multiple Listing Committee of at least three (3) members. All members of the committee shall be participants in Multiple Listing except, at the option of the local Association, REALTOR® (or REALTOR-Associates®, where applicable) affiliated with participants may be appointed to serve in such numbers as determined by the local Association. The committee members so named shall serve two-year terms. The Chairperson is designated by the President. (Amended 4/09)

**Section 6. Vacancies.** Vacancies in unexpired terms shall be filled as in the case of original appointees.

**Section 7. Attendance.** Any committee member who fails to attend three (3) consecutive regular or special meetings of the committee, without excuse acceptable to the Chairman of the Committee, shall be deemed to have resigned from the Committee and the vacancy shall be filled as herein provided for original appointees.

**Section 8. Access to Comparable and Statistical Information.** Association members who are actively engaged in real estate brokerage, management, mortgage financing, appraising, land development or building, but who do not participate in the MLS, are nonetheless entitled to

receive, by purchase or lease, information other than current listing information that is generated wholly or in part by the MLS including “comparable” information, “sold” information, and statistical reports. This information is provided for the exclusive use of REALTOR® Association members and individuals affiliated with Association members who are also engaged in the real estate business and may not be transmitted, retransmitted, or provided in any manner to any unauthorized individual, office or firm except as otherwise specified in the MLS Rules and Regulations. Association members who receive such information, either as an Association service or through the Association’s MLS, are subject to the applicable provisions of the MLS Rules and Regulations whether they participate in the MLS or not.

**Section 9. Subscribers.** Subscribers (or users) of the MLS include non-principal brokers, sales associates, and licensed and certified appraisers affiliated with participants. Subscribers also include affiliated unlicensed administrative and clerical staff, personal assistants, and individuals seeking licensure or certification as real estate appraisers who are under the direct supervision of a MLS participant or the participant’s licensed designee. (Adopted 4/92)

## **Article XIX – Regional MLS**

**Section 1. North Texas Real Estate Information Systems, Inc. (herein known as NTREIS)** The Granbury Association of REALTORS® as a shareholder in the North Texas Real Estate Information Systems, Inc., will abide by the NTREIS bylaws and Rules and Regulations as approved by the National Association of REALTORS® as amended from time to time.

This association is entitled to one (1) Class A Director, appointed to serve a two (2) year term.