

**BYLAWS OF THE
CENTRAL WISCONSIN BOARD OF REALTORS®**

ARTICLE I-Name

Section 1- The name of this organization shall be the Central Wisconsin Board of REALTORS®, hereafter referred as the "Association".

Section 2- REALTOR® Inclusion and retention of the Registered Collective Membership Mark REALTOR® 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 in this community 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 furthers the interest of home and other real property ownership.

Section 5- To unite those engaged in the real estate profession this community with the Wisconsin REALTORS® Association 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 term 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® shall include the Counties of, Portage, Marathon, Taylor, Clark and Wood. And all Cities, Townships, and Villages within these Counties. Also included in the territorial jurisdiction are the following municipalities in Adams County; Rome, Leola, Monroe, Big Plats, Colburn, Strongs Prairie, Preston and Richland. And to also to include the following municipalities in Juneau County; Kingston, Finley, Armenia, Cutler, Necedah, Orange, Clearfield, Germantown, Fountain and Lisbon.

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 right of the National Association of REALTORS® 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 engaged actively 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 Wisconsin 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 (except as provided in the following paragraph) in an association of REALTORS® within Wisconsin or a state contiguous thereto, unless otherwise qualified for Institute Affiliate membership.

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.

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.

(2) 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 of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®) 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; and the right to hold elective office in the Association, Wisconsin REALTOR Association, and National Association of REALTORS.

(3) Primary and secondary REALTOR® Members. An individual is a primary member if the Association pays Wisconsin REALTOR Association and National Association of REALTORS dues based on such member. An individual is a secondary member if Wisconsin REALTOR Association and National Association of REALTORS 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" association.

(4) Designated REALTOR® Members. Each firm (or office in the case of firms with multiple office locations) shall designate in writing one REALTOR® member who shall be responsible for all duties and obligations of membership, including the obligation to arbitrate (or to mediate if required by the association) pursuant to Article 17 of the Code of Ethics of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® and the payment of Association

dues. 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.

(5) 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. (Amended 1/02)

(6) 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."

(8) 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 association with an established real estate business.

(9) 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.

(10) 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 year 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.

(11) Chief Elected Officer of the State Association. The current chief elected officer of the Wisconsin REALTORS Association shall be a member in good standing without further payment of dues. At the direction of the Association, the current chief elected officer of the Wisconsin REALTORS Association may be the delegate who casts the vote for the Association at the Annual Meeting of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®.

(b) Privileges of REALTOR Members. 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 terms REALTOR® and REALTORS; and have the primary responsibility to safeguard and promote the standards, interests, and welfare of the Association and the real estate profession

(c) Obligation of REALTOR Members. It shall be the duty and responsibility of every REALTOR® 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 Wisconsin REALTORS Association, the Constitution and Bylaws of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, and to abide by the Code of Ethics of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, including the duty to mediate and arbitrate controversies arising out of real estate transactions as specified by Article 17 of the Code of Ethics of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF

REALTORS®, and as further defined and in accordance with the procedures set forth in the Code of Ethics and Arbitration Manual of the National Association of REALTORS®, as from time to time amended.

Every REALTOR® member shall maintain a high level of integrity and adhere to the association's membership criteria. Any violent act or threat of violence to person or property, hateful conduct, or acts of moral turpitude impacting the public shall not be tolerated and may be cause for disciplinary action, up to and including termination of membership.

ARTICLE V-Qualification & 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 to membership to thoroughly familiarize himself with the Code of Ethics of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, the Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules and Regulations of the Association, the Wisconsin REALTORS Association and National Association of REALTORS, and if elected a Member, will abide by the Constitution and Bylaws, and Rules and Regulations of the Association, Wisconsin REALTORS Association and National Association of REALTORS, and if a REALTOR® Member will abide by the Code of Ethics of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, including the obligation to arbitrate (or to mediate if required by the Association) controversies arising out of real estate transactions as specified by Article 17 of the Code of Ethics of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, and as further specified in the Code of Ethics 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 applications, have access to a copy of the Bylaws, Constitution, Rules and Regulations and Code of Ethics of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® referred to above. (Amended 11/11)

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 maintain a current, valid real estate broker's 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 Wisconsin REALTORS Association 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 Wisconsin REALTORS 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 will abide by such Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, and the Code of Ethics of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®.

*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, or 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 is described above exists, membership may not be rejected unless the Association establishes that its interest and those of its members and the public could not be adequately protected by requiring that the bankrupt applicant pay cash 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, partner, corporate officer, or branch office manager 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 must maintain a current, valid real estate broker's or salesperson's license or be licensed or certified by an appropriate state regulatory agency to engage in the appraisal of real property, shall complete a course of instruction covering the Bylaws and Rules and Regulations of the Association, the Bylaws of the Wisconsin REALTORS 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 committee and shall agree in writing that if elected to membership he will abide by the Code of Ethics of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, and by the Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules and Regulations of the local Association, Wisconsin REALTORS Association, and the National Association of REALTORS.

A new REALTOR member must attend one of the first two orientation classes following his/her application (as noticed in writing to the member by the Association). If the new REALTOR member does not attend the first Orientation class noticed to him/her by the Association, his/her second (final) notice will be copied to his/her Designated REALTOR. If Orientation is not completed within the above stated timeframe, the member will be suspended from Association activities/functions until the Orientation requirement is met. If the Orientation requirement is not met within 180 days from the Association's receipt of their application, the REALTOR's membership will terminate and the member will have to reapply for membership with full new member fees.

The Board of Directors will review any special/unusual circumstances that may constitute the need for a time extension to complete the Orientation membership requirement.

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

1. All final findings of Code of Ethics of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® violations and violations of other membership duties in any other 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. (Amended 06/2006) "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 of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®; 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 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 Board may condition membership on the applicant's certification that he/she will submit to the pending ethics or arbitration proceeding (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.

NOTE: Article IV, Section 2, of the NAR Bylaws prohibits Member Associations from knowingly granting REALTOR® or REALTOR-ASSOCIATE® membership to any applicant who has an unfulfilled sanction pending which was imposed by another Association or Association of REALTORS® for violation of the Code of Ethics of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®.

Section 3- Election

The procedure for election to membership shall be as follows.

(a) The chief staff executive (or duly authorized designee) shall determine whether the applicant is applying for the appropriate class of membership. If the association has adopted provisional membership, applicants for REALTOR® membership may be granted provisional membership immediately upon submission of a completed application form and remittance of applicable association dues and any application fee. Provisional members shall be considered REALTORS® and shall be subject to all of the same privileges and obligations of membership. Provisional membership is granted subject to final review of the application by the board of directors.

(b) If the board of directors determines that the individual does not meet all of the qualifications for membership as established in the Association's Bylaws, or, if the individual does not satisfy all of the requirements of membership (for example, completion of a mandatory orientation program) within 180 days from the Association's receipt of their application, membership may, at the discretion of the board of directors, be terminated. In such instances, dues shall be returned to the individual less a prorated amount to cover the number of days that the individual received association services and any application fee. The board of directors shall vote on the applicant's eligibility for membership. If the applicant receives a majority vote of the board of directors, he/she shall be declared elected to membership and shall be advised by written notice.

(c) The board of directors may not reject an application without providing the applicant with advance 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 may electronically or mechanically record the proceedings.

(d) If the board of directors determines that the application should be rejected, it shall record its reasons with the chief staff executive (or duly authorized designee). 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. (Adopted 1/98, Amended 1/05)

Section 4. Code of Ethics: Professional Standards and Training

New Member Code of Ethics Orientation.

Applicants for REALTOR® membership and provisional REALTOR® members (where applicable) shall complete an orientation program on the Code of Ethics of not less than two (2) hours and thirty (30) minutes of instructional time. This requirement does not apply to applicants for REALTOR® membership or provisional members 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 180 days of the date of application (or, alternatively, the date that provisional membership was granted), will result in denial of the membership application or termination of provisional membership.

Continuing REALTOR® Code of Ethics Training.

Effective January 1, 2019, through December 31, 2021 and for successive three 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 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 REALTOR® association, the State Association of REALTORS® or the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, 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 three year cycle shall not be required to complete additional ethics training until a new three 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 three year cycle will result in suspension of membership for the first two months (January and February) of the year following the end of any three year 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.

New Member Fair Housing Orientation.

Applicants for REALTOR® membership and provisional REALTOR® members (where applicable) shall complete Fair Housing training of not less than two (2) 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 REALTOR® association, the State Association of REALTORS®, the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, or the Institutes, Societies, and Councils, which meets the learning objectives and minimum criteria established by the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® from time to time. Fair Housing training approved by a state licensing authority for an existing Fair Housing requirement to gain or maintain licensure shall also fulfill this requirement, provided it also meets the learning objectives and minimum criteria established by the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® from time to time. This requirement does not apply to applicants for REALTOR® membership or provisional members 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 180 days of the date of application (or, alternatively, the date that provisional membership was granted), will result in denial of the membership application or termination of provisional membership.

Continuing Fair Housing Training.

Effective January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2027 and for successive three 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 Fair Housing training of not less than two (2) 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 REALTOR® association, the State Association of REALTORS®, the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, or the Institutes, Societies, and Councils, which meets the learning objectives and minimum criteria established by the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® from time to time. Fair Housing training approved by a state licensing authority for an existing Fair Housing requirement to maintain licensure shall also fulfill this requirement, provided it also meets the learning objectives and minimum criteria established by the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® from time to time. REALTOR® members who have completed Fair Housing training as a requirement of membership in another association shall not be required to complete additional Fair Housing training until a new three year cycle commences.

Failure to satisfy the required periodic Fair Housing training shall be considered a violation of a membership duty. Failure to meet the requirement in any three year cycle will result in suspension of membership for the first two months (January and February) of the year following the end of any three year 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.

Discipline of REALTOR® Members.

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 association, 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.

Enforcement of the Code

The responsibility 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®, as amended from time to time, which is 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 6- Status Changes

(a) A REALTOR® who changes the conditions under which he 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 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 o

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.

(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 not inconsistent 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 of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® 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 Association, the Wisconsin REALTORS 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 of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® 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 Association 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 the Association (if 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 associations 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 ethic 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 that the dispute arose while the former member was a REALTOR®. (Amended 1/00 and 11/11)

Section 6- REALTOR® Members. 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 terms REALTOR® and REALTORS®, which use shall be subject to the provisions of Article VIII; 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 principal in a firm, partnership, or 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, whichever may apply. The membership of all other principals, partners, office managers 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, whichever may apply. Further, the membership of REALTORS® other than principals who are employed by or affiliated as independent contractors with the disciplined Member shall suspend or terminate during the period of suspension of the disciplined Member or until readmission of the disciplined Member or until connection of the disciplined Member with the firm, partnership, or corporation is severed, or unless the REALTOR® Member (non-principal) elects to sever his connection with the REALTOR® and affiliate with another REALTOR® Member in good standing in the Association, whichever may apply. If a REALTOR® Member who is other than a principal in a firm, partnership, or 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.

REALTOR® Trademark.

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.

Use of the terms REALTOR® and REALTORS® by members shall, at all times, be subject to the provisions of the *Constitution and Bylaws of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®* 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®, 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.

REALTOR® members of the association shall have the privilege of using the terms REALTOR® and REALTORS®

in connection with their places of business within the state or a state contiguous thereto so long as they remain REALTOR® members in good standing. No other class of members shall have this privilege.

A REALTOR® principal member may use the terms REALTOR® and REALTORS®, 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® members or Institute Affiliate members.

In the case of a REALTOR® principal member whose business activity is substantially all commercial, the right to use the term REALTOR® or REALTORS® shall be limited to office locations in which a principal holds REALTOR® membership. If a firm, partnership, or corporation operates additional places of business in which no principal holds REALTOR® membership, the term REALTOR® or REALTORS® may not be used in any reference to those additional places of business.

Institute Affiliate members shall not use the terms REALTOR® or REALTORS®, nor the imprint of the emblem seal of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®.

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®.

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 Association during the month of October, on a form provided by the Association, a complete listing of all individuals licensed or certified with the REALTOR'S® firm(s) within the state or a state contiguous thereto. "Designated" REALTOR® Members shall also notify the Association of any additional individual (s) licensed with the firm(s) with seven (7) days of the date of affiliation or severance of the individual.

Section 14 - Harassment.

Any member of the Association may be reprimanded, placed on probation, suspended or expelled for harassment of an Association or MLS employee or Association 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 investigatory 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 Code of Ethics and Arbitration Manual of the National Association of REALTORS®. 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)

ARTICLE VII-Professional Standards and Arbitration

Section 1- The responsibility of the Association and of Association Members relating to the enforcement of the Code of Ethics of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, the disciplining of Members, and the arbitration of disputes, and the organization and procedures incident thereto, shall be governed by the Wisconsin Professional Standards Manual and The Code of Ethics and Arbitration Manual of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, as amended from time to time, which is by this reference incorporated into these Bylaws, provided, however, that any provision deemed inconsistent with Wisconsin law shall be deleted or amended to comply with state law.

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

Section 3- The responsibility of the Association and of Association members relating to the enforcement of the Code of Ethics of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, the disciplining of members, the arbitration of disputes, and the organization and procedures incident thereto, shall be consistent with the cooperative professional standards enforcement agreement entered into by the Association, which by this reference is made a part of these Bylaws.

ARTICLE VIII-Use of the Terms REALTOR® and 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.

Section 1- Use of the terms REALTOR® or REALTORS® by Members shall, at all times, be subject to the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, 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®, 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 Code of Ethics and Arbitration Manual of the National Association of REALTORS®. (Amended 06/2006)*

Section 2- REALTOR® Members of the Association shall have the privilege of using the terms REALTOR® and

REALTORS® in connection with their place of business within the state or a state contiguous thereto so long as they remain REALTOR® Members in good standing. No other class of Members shall have this privilege. (Amended 1/96)

Section 3- A REALTOR® Member who is a principal of a real estate firm, partnership, or corporation may use the terms REALTOR® and REALTORS® only if all the principals of such firm, partnership, or corporation who are actively engaged in the real estate profession within Wisconsin or a state contiguous thereto are REALTOR® Members of the Association or Institute Affiliate Members as described in Section 1 (b) of Article IV.

(a) In the case of a REALTOR 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 or REALTORS 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 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 membership; the term REALTOR or REALTORS 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®, nor 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 Wisconsin REALTORS® Association. 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 Wisconsin REALTORS® Association without further payment of dues. The Association shall continue as a Member of the Wisconsin REALTORS Association and National Association of REALTORS, unless by a majority vote of all of its REALTOR® Members, decision is made to withdraw, in which case the Wisconsin REALTORS Association and National Association of REALTORS 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 of REALTORS, or upon a determination by the board of directors of the National Association of REALTORS 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 Association and all of its members agree to abide by the *Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations*, and policies of the National 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 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 dues of Members shall be as follows:

(a) Designated REALTOR® Members. The annual dues of each Designated REALTOR® member shall be in such amount as established annually by the board of directors, plus an additional amount to be 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 Wisconsin or a 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 (1) and (2) of this paragraph 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 Wisconsin or a 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, any 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 of the firm located within the jurisdiction of this Association.

(1) A REALTOR® member of an association shall be held to be any member who has a place or places of business within Wisconsin or a state contiguous thereto and who, as a principal, partner, corporate officer, or branch office manager of the firm, partnership or corporation is actively engaged in the real estate profession as defined in Article III, Section 1 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 and which is engaged in other aspects of the real estate business provided that such licensee is not otherwise included in the computation of dues payable by the principal, partner, 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.

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, renting, 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.

Membership 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.

(b) REALTOR® Member Dues. The annual dues of REALTOR® Members other than the Designated REALTOR® shall be an amount determined 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®.

(d) Affiliate Members. The annual dues of each Affiliate Member shall be in such amount as established annually by the Board of Directors. (Amended 1/05)

(e) Public Service Members. The annual dues of each Public Service Member shall be in such amount as established annually by the Board of Directors. (Amended 1/05)

(f) Honorary Members. Dues payable, if any, shall be at the discretion of the Board of Directors. (Amended 1/05)

(g) Student Members. Dues payable, if any, shall be at the discretion of the Board of Directors. (Amended 1/05)

Section 3- Dues Payable. Dues for all Members shall be payable annually in advance on the first day of November. Dues for new members shall be computed from the date of application and granting of provisional membership. (Adopted 1/98, Amended 1/05)

Membership dues shall be considered delinquent if not paid to the Association by the date specified on the billing statement. Members who have not paid membership dues prior to the payment deadline of the current year will be assessed a \$100.00 late fee. The late fee plus renewal dues are due at such time as indicated on the late fee notice to pay. Members with unusual/special circumstances affecting their ability to pay dues on time, or pay dues plus assessed late fees on time are able to provide a written request to review to the Association of Directors. The Board of Directors will determine if the request merits a deadline extension, waiver of late fee, etc... The written request must contain a full description of the unusual/special circumstances, along with any material/information to corroborate the written description.

(a) In the event a sales licensee or licensed or certified appraiser who holds REALTOR® membership is dropped for nonpayment of Association dues, and the individual remains with the designated REALTOR'S® firm, the dues obligations 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.

Section 4- Nonpayment of Financial Obligations. If dues, fees, fines, or other assessments including amounts owed to the Association or the Association's Multiple Listing Service are not paid within one (1) month after the due date, the non-paying Member is subject to suspension at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Two (2) months after the due date, membership of the non-paying Member may be terminated at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Three (3) months after the due date, membership of the non-paying Member shall automatically terminate unless within that time the amount due is paid. However, no action shall be taken to suspend or expel a Member for nonpayment of disputed amounts until the accuracy of the amount owed has been confirmed by the Board of Directors. A former Member who has had his membership terminated for nonpayment 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 dues as of the date of termination.

Section 5 - Deposits and Expenditures. Deposits and expenditures of funds shall be in accordance with policies established by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall administer the day-to-day finances of the Association. Any non-budgeted expenditures in excess of \$5,000 may not be incurred without authorization by vote of a majority of all active members at the designated meeting following notification of same, as set forth in Article 12, Section 4.

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

Section 7 - Dues of REALTOR® Emeriti. The dues of REALTOR® Members who are REALTOR® emeriti (as recognized by the National Association of REALTORS), Past Presidents and Past Treasurers of the National Association of REALTORS or recipients of the Distinguished Service Award shall be as determined by the Board of Directors. (Amended 11/13)

ARTICLE XI-Officer and Directors

Section 1- Officers. The elective officers of the Association shall be: a President, President-elect, Secretary, and a Treasurer. The Secretary and Treasurer may be the same person. They shall be elected for terms of one year.

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 Board of Directors. It shall be the particular duty of the Chief Staff Executive to keep the records of the Association and to carry on all necessary correspondence with the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® and the Wisconsin REALTORS® Association.

Section 3- Board of Directors. The governing body of the Association shall be a Board of Directors consisting of the elected officers, the Past Association President, current MLS President, all State Directors, and 8 elected REALTOR® members one of which can be an affiliate member. Directors shall be elected to serve for terms of three years, except that at organization, one third of the elected directors shall be elected for terms of one, two and three years, respectively, or for lesser terms as may be necessary to complete the first fiscal year. Thereafter, as many Directors shall be elected each year as are required to fill vacancies. All officers and Directors shall be required to complete approved Professional Standards training once per term limit. In addition to the elected Directors, the current President of the Central Wisconsin MLS or a person appointed by the President, State Director(s), and the immediate Past President of the board shall serve as Directors, ex-officio, with full voting privileges.

Section 4- Election of Officers and Directors.

(a) At least two (2) months before the annual election, a Nominating Committee of President, President Elect, Treasurer and of 2 REALTOR® Members shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors. The Nominating Committee shall select at least one candidate, but no more than three (3), for each office and at least one (1) candidate, but not more than three (3), for each place to be filled on the Board of Directors. The report of the Nominating Committee shall be communicated to each Member eligible to vote at least five (5) 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 Chief Staff Executive at least two (2) weeks before the election. Chief Staff Executive shall send notice of such additional

nominations to all Members eligible to vote before the election.

(b) The election of Officers and Directors shall be completed by the end of the annual meeting in August. Election of State Directors shall take place at a membership meeting to be held prior to the reporting deadline required by the Wisconsin REALTORS® Association for notification of our State Director(s). Election shall be by ballot. Should a Member be unable to attend the Annual meeting or any meeting in which an election is held or be unable to vote during the open election period prior to the meeting and wish to cast an absentee ballot, notice must be given to the Executive Officer of the Association in writing. All absentee ballots must be returned to the Executive Officer in a sealed envelope no later than one day preceding the election. Ballots must be completed according to instruction to be considered valid.

(c) The President, with the approval of the Board of Directors, shall appoint an election committee of three (3) active Members to conduct the election. In case of a tie vote, lot shall determine the issue.

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 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 President-Elect, and shall 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.

(d) Any Officer/Director of the board of directors who fail to attend two (2) regular or special meetings of the board of directors without excuse acceptable to the Board of Directors after review, shall be deemed to have resigned from the board of directors and the vacancy shall be filled herein provided for original appointees.

Section 7 - Chief Staff Executive. There shall be a Chief Staff Executive, appointed by the Board of Directors, who shall be the chief administrative officer of the Association. The Chief Staff 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.

ARTICLE XII- Meetings

Section 1- Annual Meetings. The annual meeting of the Association shall be held during August of each year, the date, place, and hour to be designated by the Board of Directors.

Section 2- Meeting of Directors. The Board of Directors shall designate a regular time and place of meetings. Absence from two regular meetings without an excuse deemed valid by the Board of Directors shall be construed as resignation.

Section 3- Other Meetings. Meetings of the Members may be held at such other times as the President or the Board of Directors may determine or upon written request of at least ten (10%) percent 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 thirty (30) days 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 at a meeting of the Board of Directors shall consist of twenty five percent (25 %) of the members eligible to vote and who are present at a properly noticed meeting. A quorum for the transaction of business at a General Membership meeting shall consist of eight percent (8%) of the members eligible to vote and who are present at a properly noticed meeting.

Section 6. Electronic Transaction of Business. To the fullest extent permitted by law, the Board of Directors or membership may conduct business by electronic means **including but limited to electronic voting for elections.**

Section 7. Action without 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 a 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 Chief Staff Executive 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.

ARTICLE XIII- Committees

Section 1- Standing Committees. The President shall appoint from among the active Members, subject to confirmation by the Board of Directors, the following standing committees:

Affiliate, Bylaw/Policy, Finance/Budget, Governmental Affairs/ RPAC, Personnel, Professional Standards, Education/Programs, Communication/Equal Opportunity/Public Relations, Nomination/Awards, Membership and Strategic Planning. Members of the Professional Standards Committee shall be required to complete annual approved Professional Standards training. Appointments to the Professional Standards Committee and Grievance Committee shall be consistent with the cooperative professional standards enforcement agreement of the Association.

Section 2- Special Committees. The President shall appoint, subject to confirmation by the Board of Directors, special committees as may be deemed necessary.

Section 3- Organization. All committees shall be of such size and shall have duties, functions, and powers as may be assigned to them 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 by respective committee chairman.

Section 5. Action without 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.

ARTICLE XIV-Fiscal and Elective Year

Section 1- The fiscal and elective year of the Association shall be October 1 to September 30.

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 a majority vote of the Members present and qualified to vote at any meeting at which a quorum is present, provided the substance of such proposed amendment or amendments shall be plainly stated in the call for the meeting, except that the Board of Directors, may at any regular or special meeting of the Board of Directors, at which a quorum is present, approve amendments to the Bylaws which are mandated by National Association of REALTORS policy.

Section 2- Notice of all meetings at which amendments are to be considered shall be **digitally** mailed to every member eligible to vote at least 30 days prior to the meeting.

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 of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®.

ARTICLE XVII-Dissolution

Section 1- Upon the dissolution or winding up of affairs of this Association, the Board of Directors, after providing for the payment of all obligations, shall distribute any remaining assets to the Wisconsin REALTORS® Association or, within the Association's discretion, to any other non-profit tax exempt organization. (Amended 1/05)

ARTICLE XVIII-Multiple Listing

Section 1- Authority. The Association of REALTORS® shall maintain for the use of its Members Multiple Listing Services which shall be lawful corporations of the State of Wisconsin, all the stock of which shall be owned by this Association of REALTORS®.

Section 2- Purpose. A multiple listing service is a means 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. (Amended) Mandatory

Section 3- Governing Documents. The Board of Directors shall cause any Multiple Listing Service or Services established by it pursuant to this Article to conform its corporate Charter, Constitution, Bylaws, Rules, Regulations, Policies, Practices, and Procedures at all times to the Constitution, Bylaws, Rules, Regulations, and Policies of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®.

Section 4- Participation. Any REALTOR® Member 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, 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 cooperate or are licensed or certified by an appropriate state regulatory agency to engage in the appraisal of real property.** Cooperation is the obligation to share information on listed property and to make property available to other brokers for showing to prospective purchasers and tenants when it is in the best interests of their clients. Use of information developed by or published by a Association Multiple Listing Service or Services 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 a Association Multiple Listing Service or Services 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 cooperate 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 share information on listed property and make property available to other brokers for showing to prospective purchasers and tenants when it is in the best interests of their client(s). “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 cooperate with respect to properties of the type that are listed on the MLS in which participation is sought. Cooperation is the obligation to share information on listed property and to make property available to other brokers for showing to prospective purchasers and tenants when it is in the best interests of their clients. 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 cooperate. An MLS may evaluate whether a participant or potential participant actively endeavors during the operation of its real estate business to cooperate 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.

Section 5- Access to Comparable and Statistical Information. Association Members who are actively engaged in real estate brokerage, management, mortgage financing, appraising, land development, or building or assessing, who do not participate in the MLS, are nonetheless entitled to receive by purchase or lease all 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 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 provided in the CWMLS Rules and Regulations.

Revised August 12, 2024

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