

**BYLAWS OF THE  
ELKHART COUNTY BOARD OF REALTORS<sup>®</sup>, INCORPORATED**

(Adopted February 28, 1989)  
(Revised October 2009) - (Revised December 2011)  
(Revised March 2015) - (Revised May 2015)  
(Revised October 2015) - (Revised October 2016)  
(Revised January 2017)  
(Revised 2021) (Revised 3/2022) (Revised 10/2022)

**ARTICLE I - NAME**

**Section 1. Name:** The name of this organization shall be the Elkhart County Board of REALTORS<sup>®</sup>, Incorporated, hereinafter referred to as the "Board".

**Section 2. REALTORS<sup>®</sup>:** Inclusion and retention of the Registered Collective Membership Mark REALTORS<sup>®</sup> in the name of the Board shall be governed by the Constitution and Bylaws of the National Association of REALTORS<sup>®</sup> as from time to time amended.

**ARTICLE II - OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the Board 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<sup>®</sup>.

**Section 3.** To provide 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 Indiana Association of REALTORS<sup>®</sup> 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<sup>®</sup> and REALTORS<sup>®</sup> as licensed, prescribed, and controlled by the National Association of REALTORS<sup>®</sup>.

**ARTICLE III - JURISDICTION**

**Section 1.** The territorial jurisdiction of the Board as a Member of the National Association of REALTORS<sup>®</sup> is Cleveland, Osolo, Baugo, Washington, Concord, Harrison, Locke, Olive, York, Jefferson, Middlebury, Union, Elkhart, Clinton, Jackson and Benton Townships in Elkhart County, State of Indiana.

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

**ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1.** There shall be seven classes of Members as follows:

- (a) REALTOR<sup>®</sup> Members. REALTOR<sup>®</sup> Members, whether primary or secondary, shall be:

(1) Individuals who, as sole proprietors, partners, or 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 Indiana or a state contiguous thereto. All persons who are partners in a partnerships, 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 a Board 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. (\*Amended 1/2005)

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 board 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.

NOTE: REALTOR® members may obtain membership in a "secondary" association in another state. 10-09

(2) Individuals who are engaged in the real estate profession other than as sole proprietors, partners, corporate officers, 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 Board 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 Board, State Association and National Association.

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

(5) Designated REALTOR® Members. Each firm shall (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 pursuant to Article 17 of the Code of Ethics and payment of Board 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. (Amended 12/011)

(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® membership, subject to payment of applicable dues of 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 Board and not conflicting or competing with the business activities of any member. (Amended 08/2004)

(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 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 Board, 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.

(g) Life Member. Life Members shall be individuals no longer actively engaged in the real estate business who have contributed notable service to the Board throughout their professional career. Life members will not be required to pay local dues but will have access to the benefits of local membership. In order to enjoy the full benefits of Realtor membership the Life member would need to pay state and national dues in accordance with the by-laws of this organization.

## **ARTICLE V - QUALIFICATION AND ELECTION**

**Section 1. Application:** 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:

(a) That applicant agrees as a condition to membership to thoroughly familiarize himself with the Code of Ethics of the National Association of REALTORS<sup>®</sup>, the governing documents and policies of the local association, the State Association and the National Association, and if elected, a Member will abide by the governing documents of the local, State and National Association, and the Code of Ethics of the National Association of REALTORS<sup>®</sup> including the obligation to mediate and arbitrate controversies arising out of 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<sup>®</sup>, as from time to time amended, and

(b) That applicant consents that the Board, through its Membership Committee or otherwise, may invite and receive information and comment about applicant from any Member or other person, and that applicant agrees that any information and comment furnished to the Board 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 the governing documents and policies of the Association and Code of Ethics referred to above. (Amended 12/2011)

### **Section 2. Qualification:**

(a) An applicant for REALTOR<sup>®</sup> Membership who is a sole proprietor, partner, corporate officer, or branch office manager of a real estate firm shall supply evidence satisfactory to the Board through its Membership Committee or otherwise that he/she is actively engaged in the real estate profession, and maintains 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 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 Code of Ethics of the National Association of REALTORS<sup>®</sup>, and shall pass a non-discriminatory written examination thereon as may be required by the Committee, and shall agree that if elected to membership, to abide by the governing documents and policies of the local, State and National Association. (Amended 3/22).

(\* ) No recent or pending bankruptcy is intended to mean that the applicant or 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 Board establishes that its interests and those of its members and the public could not be adequately protected by requiring that the bankrupt applicant pay cash in advance for Board 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 sanction involving unprofessional conduct is intended to mean that the Board may only consider;

A. 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. criminal convictions if (1) the crime was punishable by death or imprisonment in excess of one year under the law under which the applicant was convicted, and (2) no more than ten (10) years have elapsed since the date of the conviction or the release of the applicant from the confinement imposed for that conviction, whichever is the later date. (Added 10/2009)

NOTE 1: One or more of the requirements for REALTOR® membership set forth above in Article V, Section 2 (a) may be deleted at the Association's discretion. However, associations may NOT adopt membership qualifications more rigorous than specified in the Membership Qualification Criteria for REALTOR® Membership, approved by the Board of Directors of the National Association.

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

(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 Board, or a Designated REALTOR® member of another Board (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, has no record of official sanctions involving unprofessional conduct\*, shall complete a course of instruction covering the Bylaws and Rules and Regulations of the Board, 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 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 Board, State Association, and the National Association. (Amended 10/2009)

\*No record of official sanctions involving unprofessional conduct is intended to mean that the association may only consider:

- A. judgments against the applicant within the past three (3) years of violations of (1) civil rights laws, (2) real estate license laws, and (3) or other laws prohibiting unprofessional conduct against the applicant rendered by the courts or other lawful authorities. (Adopted 10/2009)
- B. criminal convictions if (1) the crime was punishable by death or imprisonment in excess of one year under the law under which the applicant was convicted, and (2) no more than ten years have elapsed since the date of the conviction or the release of the applicant from the confinement imposed for that conviction, whichever is the later date. Added 10/09

### **Section 3. Election:** (Amended 1/ 2017)

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 fees. Provisional members shall be considered REALTORS® and shall be subject to all the same privileges and obligations of membership. Provisional membership is granted subject to subsequent 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 of membership as established in the association's by-laws, or, if the individual does not satisfy all of the requirements of membership (for example, completion of a mandatory orientation program within 120 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 applicant 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 applicant 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 declaratory judgment by a court of competent jurisdiction of a final judgment declaring that the rejection violates no rights of the applicant.

#### **Section 4. Code of Ethics: Professional Standards and Training**

##### **New Member Code of Ethics:**

Applicants for Realtor membership and provisional Realtor members shall complete the NAR New Member Code of Ethics Course of not less than two hours and thirty minutes of instructional time within 30 days from application. This requirement does not apply to applicants for Realtor membership or provisional members who have completed comparable requirement in another association, provided that Realtor membership has been continuous, or that any break in membership is for one year or less. (Amended 10/2022)

Failure to satisfy this requirement within the timeframe approved by the Board, will result in denial of the membership application or termination of provision membership. (Amended 10/2022)

##### **REALTOR Member Code of Ethics:**

Effective January 1, 2019, through December 31, 2021, and for each successive three (3) year period 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 Code of 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, the National Association of Realtors, which meets the learning objectives and minimum criteria established by the National Association of Realtor 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 (3) year cycle shall not be required to complete additional ethics training until a new three (3) year cycle commences. (Amended 3/22)

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 (3) 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 5 – Status Changes.**

(a) A REALTOR® who changes the conditions under which he/she holds membership shall be required to provide written notification to the Board within 30 days. A REALTOR® (non-principal) who becomes a principal in the firm with which he/she has been licensed or, alternately, 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 30 days of the date they advised the Board of their change in status, their new membership application will terminate automatically unless otherwise so directed by the Board of Directors.

A REALTOR® 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 of the privileges and obligations of membership during the period of transition. If the transfer is not completed within 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. (Adopted 10/2009)

(The Board of Directors, at its discretion, may waive any qualifications which the applicant has already fulfilled in accordance with the Board's by-laws.)

(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 pro-rated 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**

**Privileges of REALTOR® Members.** REALTOR® members, whether primary or secondary, in good standing are entitled to vote and to hold elective office in the association, and may use the terms REALTOR®. For purposes of this section, the term "good standing" means the member satisfies the "Obligations of REALTOR® Members", is current with all financial and disciplinary obligations to the association and MLS, has completed any new member requirements, and complies with NAR's trademark rules. (Amended 3/22)

**Obligations of REALTOR® Members.** It shall be the duty and responsibility of every REALTOR® member of this association to safeguard and promote the standards, interests, and welfare of the association and the real estate profession, and to protect against conduct that may cause a lack of public confidence in the real estate profession or in REALTORS®. REALTOR® members also must abide by the governing documents and policies of the association, the State Association, the *NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®*, as well as 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, and in accordance with the procedures set forth in the Code of Ethics and Arbitration Manual. (Amended 3/22)

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. (Added 3/22)

**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 Board may be reprimanded, fined, placed on probation, suspended, or expelled by the Board of Directors for a violation of these Bylaws and Board Rules and Regulations consistent with these Bylaws, after a hearing as provided in the Code of Ethics and Arbitration Manual of the Board. Although Members other than REALTORS®, are not subject to the Code of Ethics nor its enforcement by the Board, 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 Board 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 Board, 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.

**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 Board for dues, fees, fines, or other assessments of the Board or any of its services, departments, divisions, or subsidiaries, the Board may condition the right of the resigning Member to reapply for membership upon payment in full of all such monies owed.

**Section 5 - \*** (Amended 1/2017) If a Member resigns from the Board or otherwise causes membership to terminate with an ethics complaint pending, the complaint shall be processed until the decision of the Board with respect to disposition of the complaint is filed by this Board (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 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 the 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 mediation is required by the Board) continues in effect even after membership lapses or is terminated, provided that the dispute arose while the former member was a REALTOR®. (Amended 1/2017)

**Section 6 REALTOR® Members** REALTOR® Members, whether primary or secondary, in good standing whose financial obligations to the Board are paid in full shall be entitled to vote and to hold elective office in the Board; 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 Board 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 readmission to REALTOR® Membership, or unless connection with the firm, partnership, or corporation is severed, 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 readmission of the disciplined Member, or unless connection of the disciplined Member with 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/her connection with the REALTOR® and affiliate with another REALTOR® member in good standing in the association, whichever may apply. (Amended 10/2009)

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. (Amended 5/15)

(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 of 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® or use the REALTOR® logo; to serve as President of the local Board; or to be a Participant in the local association's Multiple Listing Service.

**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 Members 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 Board shall certify to the Board during the month of August, on a form provided by the Board, a complete listing of all individuals licensed or certified with 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 Board based on said non-member licensees, the Designated Realtor shall identify the Board 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 with the firm(s) within thirty (30) days of the date of affiliation or severance of the individual. (Amended 10/2009)

## **ARTICLE VII - PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND ARBITRATION**

**Section 1.** The responsibility of the Board and of Board 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 Board, as from time to time amended, which by this reference is made a part of 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® Member of this Board to abide by the Constitution and Bylaws and the Rules and Regulations of the Board, the Constitution and Bylaws of the State Association, and 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 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 Board as from time to time amended.

**Section 3.** The responsibility of the association and association members relating to the enforcement of the Code of Ethics, 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. (Added 10/2009)

## **ARTICLE VIII - USE OF THE TERMS REALTOR® AND REALTORS®**

**Section 1.** 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 Board 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. (Amended 06/2006)

**Section 2.** REALTOR® Members of the Board 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.

**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 the state or state contiguous thereto are REALTOR® Members of a Board 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.

**Section 4.** Institute Affiliate Members shall not use the terms REALTOR<sup>®</sup> or REALTORS<sup>®</sup>, nor the imprint of the emblem seal of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS<sup>®</sup>.

## **ARTICLE IX - STATE AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

**Section 1.** The Board shall be a Member of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS<sup>®</sup> and the Indiana Association of REALTORS<sup>®</sup>. By reason of the Board's Membership, each REALTOR<sup>®</sup> Member of the Member Board shall be entitled to membership in the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS<sup>®</sup> and the Indiana Association of REALTORS<sup>®</sup> without further payment of dues. The Board shall continue as a Member of the State and National Associations, unless by a majority vote of all of its REALTOR<sup>®</sup> 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 Board recognizes the exclusive property rights of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS<sup>®</sup> in the terms REALTOR<sup>®</sup> and REALTORS<sup>®</sup>. The Board shall discontinue use of the terms in any form from 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 Board adopts the Code of Ethics of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS<sup>®</sup> and agrees to enforce the Code among its REALTOR<sup>®</sup> 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 Indiana Association of REALTORS<sup>®</sup>.

## **ARTICLE X - DUES AND ASSESSMENTS**

**Section 1. Application Fee.** The Board of Directors may adopt an application fee for REALTOR<sup>®</sup> Membership in reasonable amount, not exceeding three times the amount of annual dues for REALTOR<sup>®</sup> Membership, which shall be required to accompany each application for REALTOR<sup>®</sup> Membership and which shall become the property of the Board upon final approval of the application.

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

(a) REALTOR<sup>®</sup> Members. The annual dues of each Designated REALTOR<sup>®</sup> 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<sup>®</sup> Member, and (2) are not REALTOR<sup>®</sup> Members of any Board in the state or a state contiguous thereto or Institute Affiliate Members of the Board. In calculating the dues payable to the Board by a Designated REALTOR<sup>®</sup> Member, non-member licensees as defined in (1) and (2) of this paragraph shall not be included in the computation of dues if the DR has paid dues based on said non-member licensees in another Board in the state or a state contiguous thereto, provided the Designated REALTOR<sup>®</sup> notifies the Board in writing of the identity of the Board 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 board.

(1) For the purpose of this Section, a REALTOR<sup>®</sup> Member of a Member Board 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<sup>®</sup>. An individual shall be deemed to be licensed with a REALTOR<sup>®</sup> if the license of the individual is held by the REALTOR<sup>®</sup>, or by any broker who is licensed with the REALTOR<sup>®</sup>, or by any entity in which the REALTOR<sup>®</sup> has a direct or indirect ownership interest and 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 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 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. (Amended 3/2015)

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. (Amended 3/2015)

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® membership in the association. However, membership dues shall not be prorated if the licensee held REALTOR® membership during the preceding calendar year.

(b) REALTOR® Members. The annual dues of a REALTOR® Member 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®*. (Amended 10/ 2009)

Note: The Institutes, Societies and Councils of the National Association of REALTOR® shall be Responsible for collecting and remitting dues to the National Association for Institute Affiliate Members (\$75.00). The National Association shall credit \$25.00 to 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 \$25.00 amount will be credited to the COB, unless the Institute Affiliate Member directs that the dues be distributed to the other board. The National Association shall also credit \$25.00 to 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.

(d) Affiliate Members: The annual dues of an Affiliate Member shall be an amount determined annually by the Board of Directors.

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

(f) Honorary Members: Dues payable, if any, shall be at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

(g) Student Members: Dues payable, if any, shall be at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

**Section 3. Dues Payable.** Dues for all Members shall be an amount established annually by the Board of Directors. Dues are payable annually in advance on the first day of October. Dues for new members shall be computed from the date of application and granting of provisional membership. (Amended 10/2016)

(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 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 thirty (30) days of the notice of termination. (Amended 10/2009)

**Section 4. Nonpayment of Financial Obligations.** If dues, fees, fines, or other assessments including amounts owed to the Board or the Board's Multiple Listing Service are not paid within one month after the due date, the nonpaying Member is subject to

suspension at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Two months after due date membership of the nonpaying Member may be terminated at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Three months after due date membership of the nonpaying 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 Board or any of its services, departments, divisions or subsidiaries may apply for reinstatement in the manner prescribed for new applicants for membership, after making payment in full of all accounts due as of the date of termination. (Amended 10/2016)

Non-dues invoices are due by the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month. Invoices not paid by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month will incur a 3% monthly late fee and a \$5.00 monthly processing fee. (Amended 07/2006)

**Section 5. Deposits & Expenditures.** Deposits and expenditures of funds shall be in accordance with policies established by the Board of Directors. (All money received by the Board for any purposed shall be deposited to the credit of the Board in a financial institution or institutions selected by resolution of the Board of Directors.)

**Section 7. Notice of Dues, Fees, Fines, Assessments, and Other Financial Obligations of Members.** All dues, fees, fines, assessments, or other financial obligations to the Board or Board Multiple Listing Service shall be noticed to the delinquent Board Member in writing setting forth the amount owed and due date.

**Section 8.** The dues of REALTOR® members who are REALTOR® Emeriti (as recognized by the National Association), past Presidents and past Treasurers of the National Association or recipients of the Distinguished Service Award shall be as determined by the board of directors. (Amended 3/15)

**NOTE:** A Member Board'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 and past Treasurers 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 in 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 Boards 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. (Amended 3/15)

## **ARTICLE XI - OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

**Section 1. Officers.** The elected officers of the Board shall be: President, President-Elect, and Secretary/Treasurer. The Secretary and Treasurer may be the same person. They shall be elected for terms of TWO years.

**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 records of the Board and to carry on all necessary correspondence with the National Association of REALTORS® and the Indiana Association of REALTORS®.

**Section 3. Board of Directors.** The governing body of the Board shall be a Board of Directors consisting of the elected officers, immediate past President of the Board, and seven (7) elected REALTOR® Members of the Board. 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 calendar year. Thereafter, as many Directors shall be elected each year as are required to fill vacancies.

- (a) Term Limits. No director shall serve for more than two consecutive three-year terms.

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

- (a) At least two (2) months before the annual election, a Nominating Committee of three REALTOR® Members shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors. The Nominating Committee shall select one

candidate for each office and one candidate to each place to be filled on the Board of Directors. 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 10 days preceding the election. Additional candidates for the offices to be filled may be placed in nomination by petition signed by at least twenty percent (20%) of the REALTOR® Members eligible to vote. The petition shall be filed with the Secretary at least five (5) days before the election. The Secretary shall send notice of such additional nominations to all Members eligible to vote before the election. *(Amended 10/2015)*

(b) The election of Officers and Directors shall take place at the annual meeting or where permitted by state law, electronically. *In-person* Election may be by ballot and with all votes shall be cast in person or by proxy or by a motion to approve unanimously. The ballot shall contain the names of all candidates and the offices for which they are nominated. ~~Or by a motion to accept unanimously.~~ Electronic voting may be offered ~~Or where permitted by state law, and~~ in accordance with applicable state requirements, ~~election of officers may be conducted by electronic means,~~ in accordance with procedures established by the Board of Directors and in *ordance with applicable state law and the voting practices as approved by the Board of Directors.*

(c) The President, with the approval of the Board of Directors, shall appoint an Election Committee of three (3) REALTOR® Members to conduct the election. In case of a tie vote, the issue shall be determined by lot.

### **Section 5. MLS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The governing body of the MLS board of directors will consist of President, Secretary/Treasurer and Past President (Director). The MLS Board positions will be appointed by the ECBOR President in October from among the ECBOR Board members and approved by the ECBOR board by a majority vote. The MLS board terms will begin in January of each year and will be approved by the Elkhart County Board of Directors, as sole shareholder, annually. The MLS Board will meet annually or as needed to consider policy and system change requests as needed. The ECBOR Board of Directors will consider the general business matters of the MLS during their Board of Director meetings.

Vacancies on the MLS board will be filled by the ECBOR President and approved by simple majority of the ECBOR Board.  
*(Adopted 10/2015)*

**Section 6. 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 7. Removal of Officers or 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 procedure:

(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 specifically set forth the reasons the individual is deemed 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 Board 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 Board 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 (3/4) vote of Members present and voting shall be required for removal from office.

**Section 8. Chief Staff Executive.** The Chief Staff Executive, who is also the Association Executive, shall be the chief administrative officer of the Board. The Chief Staff Executive shall have the authority to hire, supervise, evaluate and terminate other staff 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 Board shall be held during October of each year, the date, place and hour to be designated by the Board of Directors.

**Section 2. Meetings of Directors.** The Board of Directors shall designate a regular time and place of meetings. Absence from three consecutive regular meetings without an excuse deemed valid by the Board of Directors shall be construed as resignation. A quorum for the transaction of business shall be a majority of the Board of Directors, except as may otherwise be required by state law. (Amended 3/2015)

**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 twenty percent (20%) 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 twenty percent (20%) of the Members eligible to vote except as otherwise required by state law. A quorum for the Board of Directors shall consist of fifty percent (50%) of the Board of Director except as otherwise required by state law. (Amended 3/15)

**Section 6. Transaction of Business.** To the fullest extent permitted by law, the Board of Directors or membership may conduct business by electronic means.

**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 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 REALTOR<sup>®</sup> Members, subject to confirmation by the Board of Directors, the following standing committees: Finance, Nominating and RPAC Trustees. The President shall appoint from among the REALTOR<sup>®</sup> Members Chairpersons for Education, Advocacy, Community Outreach, and Member Engagement Committee (Amended 10/ 2022)

**Section 2. Special Committees.** The President shall appoint, subject to confirmation by the Board of Directors, special committees 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 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.

**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 constitute presence at the meeting.

## **ARTICLE XIV - FISCAL AND ELECTIVE YEAR**

**Section 1.** The fiscal year shall be on a calendar year (January 1 - December 31) basis. (, and the elective year of the Board of Directors shall be January 1 - December 31.)

**Section II.** The elective year of the Board shall be January 1 – December 31.

## **ARTICLE XV - RULES OF ORDER**

**Section 1.** Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall be recognized as the authority governing meetings of the Board, 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 By-laws which are mandated by NAR policy. (Amended 4/1993)

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

**Section 3.** Amendments to these Bylaws affecting the admission or qualification of REALTOR<sup>®</sup> and Institute Affiliate Members, the use of the terms REALTOR<sup>®</sup> and REALTORS<sup>®</sup>, or any alteration in the territorial jurisdiction of the Board shall become effective upon their approval as authorized by the Board of Directors of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS<sup>®</sup>.

## **ARTICLE XVII - DISSOLUTION**

**Section 1.** Upon the dissolution, or winding up of affairs, of the Board of Directors, after providing for the payment of all obligations, shall distribute any remaining assets to the Indiana Association of REALTORS<sup>®</sup>, or with its discretion, to any other non-profit tax exempt organization.

## **ARTICLE XVIII - MULTIPLE LISTING**

**Section 1. Authority.** The Board of REALTORS<sup>®</sup> shall maintain for the use of its Members a Multiple Listing Service which shall be the lawful corporation of the State of Indiana, all stock of which shall be owned by the Board of REALTORS<sup>®</sup>.

**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 buyers agents, or in other agency or non-agency capacities 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 11/2004)

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

**Section 4. Participation.** Any REALTOR<sup>®</sup> Member of this or any other Board who is a principal, partner, corporate officer, or branch office manager acting on behalf of a principal, without further qualification, except as otherwise stipulated in these Bylaws, shall be eligible to participate in a 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 brokers 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 a Board 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 a Board Multiple Listing Service where access to such information is prohibited by law. (\*)

See NOTE at conclusion of the Article.

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.

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. An 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 10/2009)

**Section 5. Access to Comparable and Statistical Information:** Board 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 Board Members and individuals affiliated with Board 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. Board members who receive such information, either as a Board service or through the Board's MLS, are subject to the applicable provisions of the MLS Rules and Regulations whether they participate in the MLS or not.

(\*) NOTE: Generally, Boards of REALTORS<sup>®</sup>, when there is more than one principal in a real estate firm, define the chief principal officers of the firm as the MLS "Participant." Brokers or salespersons other than principals are not considered "Participants" in the Service, but have access to and use of the Service through the principal(s) with whom they are affiliated.