

TENNESSEE ACADEMY OF GENERAL DENTISTRY CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

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1 **CONSTITUTION**

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3 **ARTICLE I**

4 Name

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6 The name and title by which this organization (hereinafter referred to as the "TN AGD")
7 is and shall be known as is "The Tennessee Academy of General Dentistry."

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9 **ARTICLE II**

10 Purpose

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12 The purpose of the TN AGD is to serve the needs of Tennessee's general dentists, to
13 represent the interests of its member dentists and to foster their continued proficiency
14 through quality continuing education in order to better serve the public.

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16 **ARTICLE III**

17 Organization

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Section 1. Incorporation

The TN AGD is incorporated in the state of Tennessee as a not-for-profit organization. If this corporation be dissolved at any time, no part of it, funds nor property, shall be distributed to, or among, its members; but after payment of all indebtedness of the corporation, its surplus shall be used for dental education and research in such a manner as the then governing body of the organization may determine.

Section 2. Central Office

The central office of the TN AGD shall be located within the geographical boundaries of Tennessee.

ARTICLE IV

Membership

The membership of the TN AGD shall consist of dentists whose qualifications, classification rights, obligations, and the method of their acceptance and election shall be established in Chapter I of the Bylaws.

ARTICLE V

Government

Section 1. Legislative Body

The legislative and supreme governing body of the TN AGD will be a Board of Directors as provided for in Chapter II of the Bylaws.

Section 2. Administrative Body

The administrative body of the TN AGD shall be a Board of Directors as provided in Chapter II of these Bylaws.

ARTICLE VI

Officers

The elective officers of the TN AGD shall be a President, President-Elect, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Editor. The powers, duties, terms of office and method of election shall be set forth in Chapter III in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE VII

Board of Directors

The control and administration of the TN AGD shall be vested in a Board of Directors as

64 provided in Chapter II of the Bylaws.

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66 ARTICLE VIII

67 Meetings

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69 The TN AGD shall hold an Annual Meeting at a time and place to be designated by the
70 Board of Directors. At that time, the Board will elect its officers and directors.

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72 ARTICLE IX

73 Principles of Ethics

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75 The Principles of Ethics of the TN AGD shall be the Principles of Ethics of the Academy
76 of General Dentistry.

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78 ARTICLE X

79 General Provisions

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81 This Constitution and Bylaws, either as presently drawn or amended, shall not be in
82 conflict with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Academy of General Dentistry.

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84 Whenever an amendment is made to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Academy of
85 General Dentistry which renders a provision of this Constitution and Bylaws inconsistent
86 with the same, such provisions shall be deemed automatically amended without
87 requiring any further action of the TN AGD.

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89 ARTICLE XI

90 Amendments

91

92 Section 1.

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94 This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the
95 members of the Board of Directors, provided that the proposed amendments have
96 been presented in writing at any previous session of the Board of Directors.

97

98 Section 2.

99

100 The TN AGD Council on Constitution and Bylaws, by a majority vote or any
101 group of twenty-five (25) or more active or emeritus members, may propose
102 amendments to this Constitution submitting the same to the Secretary at least
103 sixty (60) days prior to the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors.

104 **BYLAWS**

105

106

107 CHAPTER I

108

109 Membership

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111 Section 1. Classifications of Membership:

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113 The classifications of membership are determined by AGD House of Delegates.

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115 Section 2. Removal from One Jurisdiction to Another

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117 A member who has changed the location of his/her practice from the jurisdiction
118 of one constituent AGD to that of another constituent AGD may maintain active
119 membership in the component AGD of which he/she is a member for only one (1)
120 full calendar year following that of his/her removal from the jurisdiction of such
121 AGD.

122

123 Chapter II

124

125 Dues, Assessments and Processing Fees

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127 Section 1. Membership Dues

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129 A. The dues for each category of membership shall be determined by the Board
130 of Trustees and shall be in addition to the amount charged by the Academy of
131 General Dentistry for organizational dues, special assessments, processing,
132 and/or initiation fees.

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134 B. Membership dues shall be payable on the first day of January of each year.

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136 C. Any member whose dues or assessments are unpaid by March 31 shall
137 be removed from the TN AGD's roster of members and lose all benefits of
138 membership in the AGD. Delinquents deleted from the membership roster
139 on March 31 may be reinstated prior to the end of the calendar year subject to the
140 approval of the Board of Directors. If, at the end of the calendar year, the
141 amount due remains unpaid, the member whose name has been stricken from
142 the roll shall be in the same status as though he/she had never been a member
143 and shall acquire membership only in the manner set forth in these Bylaws.

144

145 Section 2. Active Members Elected After July 1

146

147 The dues for members enrolled between July 1 and September 30 shall be fifty
148 (50) percent of regular constituent dues.

149

150 Section 3. Active Members 150 Elected After October 1

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152 Active Members elected after October 1st of any year shall be applied to the next
153 calendar year. The individual's date of membership shall be based on the date of
154 receipt of the application.

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Section 4. Loss of Membership and Reinstatement

A. A member whose current dues have not been paid by March 31 of the current year shall cease to be a member of the AGD. The individual may secure reinstatement by paying the amount due prior to the end of the calendar year. If, by December 31st of any given year, the amount due remains unpaid, the individual may secure reinstatement as a member for that given year by fully paying his or her dues. Once such a member is reinstated, he or she may reclaim credit for any continuing education credits he or she obtained while an active member of the AGD.

B. As a result of judicial procedure:

1. The TN AGD may cause an individual to lose his or her membership either temporarily or permanently as provided in Chapter XII, Section 1.A. The AGD's Council on Constitution and Bylaws and Judicial Procedures may cause an individual who is not affiliated with a constituent AGD to lose his or her membership as provided in Chapter XII, Section 2 of the AGD's Bylaws;

2. A member under suspension is automatically reinstated at the end of the suspension period as specified by the constituent AGD and/or the Council on Constitution and Bylaws and Judicial Procedures;

3. A member who is expelled from the organization may not be reinstated until such time as the expulsion is lifted by either the involved constituent AGD or an appeal to the Council on Constitution and Bylaws and Judicial Procedures.

Section 5. Special Considerations

A. Disability:

A member of this AGD who is totally disabled for and who is unable to engage in the duties of the dental profession and who is a member in good standing at the time total disability was incurred shall be exempt from the payment of dues and shall be in good standing during the period of total disability.

1. A totally disabled member may apply for dues waiver by:

a. Submitting to the AGD Headquarters a signed physician's statement, attesting total disability; and

b. A dues waiver application through the Membership Council attesting to his or her total disability.

201 2. During the period of exemption from dues, further verification of
202 disability may be requested by TN AGD.

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205 C. Leave of Absence

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207 1. A member in good standing who has temporarily left the practice
208 of dentistry for reasons of child-rearing, family tragedy or personal health
209 problems, for at least six (6) months and intends to be out of the practice
210 of dentistry for more than one (1) year, may be granted a leave of absence
211 subject to approval by the Membership Council.

212

213 2. Dues will be the same as that established for retired members and
214 pertain to the new calendar year, with dues to resume at the
215 appropriate rate for the following year unless the leave of absence is
216 extended by action of the Board.

217

218 3. Leave of absence status is limited to three (3) consecutive years.

219

220 4. Members who have lapsed their membership in the AGD may not
221 take advantage of this provision unless their dues have been fully paid
222 for the year in which the need for a leave started.

223

224 5. Consideration for granting a leave of absence will not be granted to
225 any member whose license is currently revoked or suspended.

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228 CHAPTER III

229 Board of Directors

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231 Section 1. Composition

232

233 The Board of Directors shall consist of up to twenty-one (21) voting members
234 including the President, President-Elect, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer,
235 Editor, and one active member from each of the nine (9) districts of the Tennessee
236 Dental Association, and six (6) at-large members. The at-large members will have
237 a geographical distribution of one (1) from each of the three (3) grand divisions of
238 the State of Tennessee and three (3) from any area within the State of Tennessee.
239 The Immediate Past President will serve as an ex-officio member of the Board of
240 Directors.

241 The Chairperson of the Board of Directors shall be the President. In the absence
242 of the President, the President-Elect shall preside at the meeting of the Board.

242

243 Section 2. Meetings of the Board of Directors

244

245 The Board of Directors shall meet at the call of the President and shall be required

246 to meet at least twice a year. The Secretary shall assume the responsibility for
247 alerting every member at least ten (10) days in advance. A majority of the Board
248 of Directors shall constitute a quorum. One meeting each year will be considered
249 the Annual Meeting.

250

251 Section 3. Annual Meeting

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253 The following must be included in the order of business at the Annual Meeting:

254

255 a. Call to order by the President.

256

257 b. Minutes of the previous session.

258

259 c. Reports of the President, President-Elect, Vice-President, Secretary, and
260 Treasurer.

261

262 d. A report of councils and committees.

263

264 e. A report of the Board of Directors by the Secretary.

265

266 f. Unfinished business.

267

268 g. New business.

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270 h. Report of the Nominating Committee.

271

272 i. Election of officers.

273

274 j. Adjournment.

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277 Section 4. Duties and Powers of the Board of Directors

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279 It shall be the power and duty of the Board of Directors:

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281 a. To control, manage and administer the TN AGD.

282

283 b. To provide for the maintenance and supervision of all property owned or
284 operated by the TN AGD.

285

286 c. To determine the place and date for holding the Annual Meeting and to approve
287 an overall meeting schedule for the coming year.

288

289 d. To establish a budget for the coming year and to see that the TN AGD
290 accounts are examined in detail and audited at least once a year.

289

290

291 e. To review all council and committee reports and take appropriate action on
292 them.

293
294 f. To periodically assess the needs of the members and to develop plans to see that
295 those needs are met.

296
297 g. To nominate and elect officers at the Annual Meeting.

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299 Section 5. Removal Proceedings

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301 A Board member may be removed from office, including any officer, based on a
302 recommendation from the Board of Directors consisting of a majority vote of the
303 members of the Board present and voting and a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the
304 members attending a meeting of the general assembly announced to the entire
305 membership at least thirty (30) days in advance of the meeting.

306
307 Section 6. Rules of Order

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309 Sturgis Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure shall govern the deliberations of the
310 TN AGD in all cases where it does not conflict with the Constitution and Bylaws.

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313 CHAPTER IV

314 Officers

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316 Section 1. Officers

317
318 The officers of this AGD shall be a President, President-Elect, Vice-President,
319 Secretary, Treasurer, Editor and Immediate Past President.

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321 Section 2. Terms of Office

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323 The President, President-Elect, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer shall each
324 serve two (2) year terms or until their successors in office are elected. All terms
325 shall begin immediately after the Annual Meeting.

326
327 Section 3. Vacancy in Office

328
329 In the event of a vacancy for any reason in the office of President-Elect, Vice-
330 President, Secretary, Treasurer or Editor the President, subject to the approval of
331 the Board of Directors, shall appoint an interim successor to serve the
332 uncompleted term of office.

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334 Section 4. Duties of the Officers

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336 A. President: It shall be the duty of the President:

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1. To serve as an official representative of the TN AGD in its contact with government, civic, business, and professional organizations for the purpose of advancing the objectives and policies of the TN AGD.
 2. To serve as a non-voting consultant on all TN AGD committees.
 3. To preside at meetings of the Board of Directors. He/she shall have the right to vote only in the event of a tie.
 4. To appoint members to vacancies on councils and committees subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.
 5. To appoint a parliamentarian.
 6. To submit an annual report to the Board of Directors.
 7. With the assistance of the Board of Directors and Treasurer, develop an annual budget proposal for the TN AGD.
 8. To complete any appropriate application for national awards for the constituency and/or its members.
 9. To serve as a Delegate to the AGD Annual Session.
 10. To succeed to the office of Immediate Past President at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting.
- B. President-Elect: It shall be the duty of the President-Elect:
1. To serve as a voting member of the Board of Directors.
 2. To serve as a non-voting consultant to all committees.
 3. To assume the office of President in the event that the President is unable to fulfill the term of her/his office.
 4. To succeed to the office of President at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting.
 5. To attend all important functions of the TN AGD.
 6. To serve as a Delegate to the AGD Annual Session.
 7. To preside in the temporary absence of the President at meetings of the Board of Directors.

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8. To cooperate with the President and familiarize herself/himself with the duties of that office.

C. Vice-President: It shall be the duty of the Vice-President:

1. To act as General Chairperson of the Annual Session.
2. To serve as a voting member of the Board of Directors.
3. To succeed to the office of President-Elect at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting.
4. To serve as a Delegate to the AGD Annual Session, if the numbers allow.
5. To perform other duties as directed by the President.

D. Secretary: It shall be the duty of the Secretary:

1. To keep minutes of all meetings of the Board of Directors.
2. To be the custodian of all the records and properties of the TN AGD.
3. To act a Chairperson of the Dentist of the Year Selection Committee.
4. To notify council and committee members of their appointments.
5. To countersign all citations, certificates, and testimonials.
6. To conduct correspondence on behalf of the TN AGD.
7. To notify all members of general membership meetings including the annual business session, at least thirty (30) days in advance.
8. To notify all members of the Board of Directors of meetings at least ten (10) days in advance.

E. Treasurer: It shall be the duty of the Treasurer:

1. To keep adequate and proper accounts of the properties and funds of the TN AGD.
2. To file the appropriate tax returns with the federal government and the State of Tennessee.
3. To deposit or cause to be deposited all monies and other valuables in the name

- 428 of and to the credit of this AGD.
429
430 4. To disburse the funds of this AGD as may be directed by the Board of
431 Directors.
432 5. To sign all checks.
433
434 6. With assistance from the President and Board of Directors, to develop an
435 annual budget proposal for the TN AGD.
436
437 7. To cause to be bonded all persons authorized to handle this AGD's funds.
438

439 F. Editor: It shall be the duty of the Editor:

- 440
441 1. To coordinate the publishing of the TN AGD Newsletter four times yearly.
442
443 2. To work in concert with the TN AGD Webmaster to maintain the TN AGD
444 website.
445
446 3. To maintain an up-to-date mailing list of members including electronic mailing
447 addresses and to notify the Academy of General Dentistry of changes.
448

449 G. Immediate Past President: It shall be the duty of the Immediate Past President:

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451 1. To serve as an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors.
452
453 2. To assure a smooth transfer of Board leadership and records to the President.
454
455

456 CHAPTER V

457 Councils and Committees

458

459 Section 1. Appointments to Councils/Committees

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461 The President, with the approval of the Board of Directors, shall make all council and
462 committee appointments. All TN AGD councils shall be constituted so that an equal
463 number of active and/or emeritus members complete their three-year terms each year.
464 The President, with the approval of the Board of Directors, shall name active members to
465 serve one, two and three-year terms so that the terms are staggered during the first year
466 that this appointment system is implemented. Each new President, with the approval of
467 the Board of Directors, shall designate one particular council member to serve as
468 chairperson, regardless of the length of that individual's unexpired term on the council.
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470 Council appointments expire at the end of the appropriate Annual Meeting, generally
471 three years after an active or emeritus member has been named to serve on the council.
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473 Section 2. Council

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The composition and responsibilities of each council are as follows:

a. Council on Constitution, Bylaws and Judicial Affairs: shall be composed of up to three (3) members including the chairperson. The council shall study and make recommendations to the Board of Directors on any proposed change in the Constitution and Bylaws. The council shall, from time to time, recommend amendments, modification, or interpretations of the Constitution and Bylaws of this AGD. The council shall maintain a file of copies of the TN AGD constitution and bylaws.

1. Study and make recommendations to both the Board of Directors and the general assembly on any proposed change in the Constitution and Bylaws.

2. Recommend amendments, modifications, or interpretations of the Constitution and Bylaws of this AGD.

3. Maintain a file of copies of component AGD constitution and bylaws.

4. Review various complaints which have been received in writing about members.

5. Make recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding the suspension or expulsion of a member for membership in the TN AGD.

6. Conduct preliminary hearings which may cause the Board of Directors to suspend or expel a member from the TN AGD.

b. Council on Continuing Dental Education: shall consist of up to six (6) members including the chairperson. The council shall guide and evaluate continuing education opportunities in the state, and shall act as a liaison between this AGD and the American Dental Association's constituents and components, accredited hospitals, dental schools, study clubs, specialty groups, and the state board of dental examiners, so that continuing education opportunities will be coordinated within the jurisdiction of this AGD. This Council will have the responsibility for determining whether continuing education courses offered within the TN AGD's jurisdiction should be recognized for Fellowship and Mastership credit in accordance with the guidelines established by the Academy of General Dentistry.

c. Council on Dental Practice: shall consist of ([three (3) to six (6)]) members including the chairperson. The Council shall:

1. Investigate and continually study any dental care programs, including third party programs, existing within the state that have an effect on the general practice of dentistry.

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2. Establish a liaison with the dental care committee of the state dental society.

3. Communicate, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors, AGD recommendations for improving particular dental care programs.

4. Answer surveys from AGD Headquarters.

d. Membership Council: shall consist of up to six (6) members including the chairperson selected by the president. This council shall have the following responsibilities:

1. Assume the responsibility for an ongoing membership recruitment campaign.

2. Develop programs for recruiting and retaining members of this AGD.

e. Council on Legislative and Governmental Affairs: shall consist of up to six (6) members including the chairperson. This council shall assume the following responsibilities:

1. Establish liaison with the Tennessee Dental Association determining what legislative proposals are to be introduced into the state legislature for the coming year.

2. Provide recommendations on positions to be taken by the TN AGD with regard to legislative proposals being considered in the state.

3. Work with AGD Headquarters, which through the use of a legislative/regulatory monitoring service, identifies pertinent legislation/regulation, adopt and advocate appropriate positions.

4. Attend the meetings of the Tennessee Board of Dentistry.

5. To act as direct liaison to the TN AGD lobbyist in all his activities.

f. Public Information Council: shall consist of up to six (6) members including the chairperson who shall be designated as the Public Information Officer. This council shall assume the following responsibilities:

1. Place news releases about TN AGD activities in:

a. State and local dental publications.

- 566 b. The lay press
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568 2. Coordinate the distribution of broadcast public service materials in the state.
569
570 3. Assure that press releases concerning individuals who have achieved
571 Fellowship or Mastership status appear in local newspapers.
572
573 4. Develop and coordinate special public relations events, such as health fairs,
574 family dental health days, *SmileLine*, poster contests, etc.
575
576 5. Coordinate a speakers' bureau for use by local lay groups and the media.
577

578 g. Council on Annual Sessions: shall consist of four (4) members those being
579 the Vice President, the President-Elect, the President and the Immediate Past
580 President. This Council shall assume the following responsibilities:

- 581 1. Select and host speakers for the Annual Session.
582
583 2. Recommend locations for future Annual Sessions for Board approval.
584
585 3. Coordinate all exhibitors for the Annual Session.
586
587 4. Invitation and hosting of AGD officers at the Annual Session.
588
589 5. Coordinate all luncheons and social events for the Annual Session.
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594 Section 3. Committees

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596 In addition, the TN AGD shall also have the following committees:

- 597
598 a. Nominating Committee: shall consist of the members of the Board of
599 Directors. It shall be the duty of this committee to nominate at least one
600 candidate for each elective office except the President. If more than one (1) candidate is
601 proposed for any office, the Nominating Committee shall select only one (1) candidate
602 by secret ballot. The balloting will continue until one (1) candidate has a
603 simple majority of the votes of the Nominating Committee for any given
604 office. The Nominating Committee shall meet immediately following a Board
605 of Directors' meeting. The candidates who are nominated shall be made known
606 to the membership at least sixty (60) days prior to the Annual Meeting. The
607 Immediate Past President of this AGD shall preside at the meeting of the
608 Nomination Committee. In the absence of the Immediate Past President, the
609 President Elect or the presiding officer at the Board meeting shall
610 act as chairperson. Said nominees shall be known to the membership at least
611 sixty (60) days prior to the prior to the Annual Meeting.

612

613 b. Program Committee: shall consist of members selected by the President with the
614 approval of the Board of Directors. This committee shall assume the
615 responsibility for developing a meeting schedule subject to the approval of the
616 Board of Directors. The committee shall assume the responsibility for contacting
617 the various speakers and making the necessary arrangements for each meeting of
618 the TN AGD.

619

620 c. Ad Hoc Committees: The President, with the approval of the Board of Directors,
621 shall have the authority to appoint ad hoc committees that are necessary to fill the
622 needs of the organization. All ad hoc committees shall be terminated no later than
623 the end of the incumbent President's term of office.

624

625 Section 4. Transaction of Business

626

627 In order for any council or committee to transact business, at least a majority of its
628 members must participate in the decision. On mail, telephone or e-mail votes, all
629 members must be contacted. No meeting of a council or committee may be held without
630 a majority of the voting council or committee members in attendance. In all instances,
631 applicable state law applies and may supersede these provisions. All members of a
632 council or committee must be duly notified in writing of the time and place of the
633 meeting at least seven (7) days before it is to take place.

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635

636 CHAPTER VI

637 Indemnification

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639 Each officer, director, council member, committee member, employee and other agent of
640 the TN AGD, who was or is a party to any action suit or proceeding by reason of fact that
641 he or she is or was an officer, director, council member, committee member, employee or
642 other agent of the AGD shall be held harmless and indemnified against all costs,
643 expenses, attorneys' fees, judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and
644 reasonably incurred by such person in connection with such action, suit or proceeding, if
645 such person acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in, or
646 not opposed to, the best interests of the AGD, and, with respect to any criminal action or
647 proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful, provided
648 that no indemnification shall be made in respect to any claim, issue or matter as to which
649 such person shall have been adjudged to be liable for negligence or misconduct in the
650 performance of his or her duty to the corporation, unless, and only to the extent that the
651 court in which such action or suit was brought shall determine upon application that,
652 despite the adjudication of liability, but in view of all the circumstances in the case, such
653 person is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnity for such expenses as the court shall
654 deem proper. The indemnification provided by this chapter shall insure to the benefit of
655 the heirs, executors, and administrators of such person entitled to the indemnification
656 under this chapter.

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658 CHAPTER VII

659 Amendments

660

661 Section 1.

662 The Bylaws may be amended by an affirmative vote of at least a majority of the Directors
663 present and voting at the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors, provided that a copy
664 of the proposed amendment has been sent to the members of the Board at least thirty (30)
665 days before the meeting at which such action is proposed to be taken.

666

667 Section 2.

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669 Any active or emeritus member may propose amendments to the Bylaws by submitting
670 them in writing to the Secretary at least sixty (60) days prior to the Annual Meeting. The
671 Secretary shall be responsible for seeing that all members of the Board of Directors are
672 notified of the proposed amendments at least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual
673 Meeting.

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678 Constituent President:  Date: 30 July 2019

679 Signature

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683 Regional Director:  Date: 30 July 2019

684 Signature

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686 Updated Jan, 2002

687 Updated Sept, 2006

688 Updated August, 2009

689 Updated January, 2012

690 Updated August, 2019