

BY-LAWS
THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF
THE WASHINGTON FAMILY DESCENDANTS, INC.

ARTICLE I – Name

The name of this organization shall be The National Society of the Washington Family Descendants, Inc.; hereafter referred to as “the Society” or “this Society”.

ARTICLE II – Purpose

The purpose of this Society is to honor George Washington through the association of descendants of his family. This Society shall be benevolent, genealogical, literary, historical and patriotic. It shall strive to cultivate the ties of friendship among members of this Washington family the six other Colonial American families related to George Washington, as listed in Article III; provide leadership in the assembling and recording of data, documents, and material relating to the Washington family in the Colonial and Federal periods; encourage and support loyalty to the Constitution of the United States of America, and loyalty to the flag as an emblem of the United States.

ARTICLE III – Eligibility and Membership

Membership. Membership in this Society shall include: Annual, Life, Associate, Life Associate, Junior, and Honorary members.

Annual and Life. Annual and Life membership in this Society is open to persons 21 years of age or older who can prove their lawful lineal descent, by blood, from one of the following of General George Washington’s ancestors who lived in Colonial America between 1607 and 1732:

Colonel John Washington

Lt. Colonel Nathaniel Pope

Nicholas Martiau

George Reade

Augustine Warner, Sr.

Colonel William Ball

Mary Johnson Ball Hewes

Membership shall also be open to the lawful lineal descendants by blood of Lawrence Washington, brother of Colonel John Washington, the immigrant.

Associate. Associate and Life Associate members in this Society shall be the husband or wife of an annual or Life member in good standing. An Associate or Life Associate member shall not be entitled to vote or hold office.

Junior. Persons under twenty-one years of age and meeting all requirements of membership can be Junior members in this Society. On attaining age twenty-one, Junior members shall automatically become eligible for annual or life membership with the rights, privileges, and obligations of that class.

Honorary. Honorary members in this Society shall be elected, subject to their acceptance, at the annual meeting from persons who are especially distinguished for conspicuous and outstanding service to their country, or persons who have provided outstanding contributions to the Society. Honorary members shall not have the right to vote or hold office.

Charter Members. All persons whose applications were approved on or before November 1, 1956, shall be considered Charter Members of the Society.

Article III shall not be interpreted to exclude any present members of this Society.

Certificates. Each Annual and Life member of the Society shall be entitled to a membership certificate bearing the Seal of the National Society. This certificate shall be signed by the President and Registrar.

ARTICLE IV – Qualifications of Membership

Applications. Applicants for membership in this Society shall present two sets of application papers and the registration fee directly to the National Registrar. If the application is in order and the papers verified, the Registrar shall present the applicant's papers to the President for final approval. If the application is rejected, the fee shall be returned to the applicant. Only two applications shall be furnished without charge.

Application papers of members of the Society become the property of the Society and may not be transferred to another organization or individual.

ARTICLE V – Organization

The government of the National Society of the Washington Family Descendants shall be vested in the Executive Board.

Organization of the Executive Board. The Board shall consist of the President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Third Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar, Chaplain, Historian, Parliamentarian, Editor of "Washington Words", and Chairmen of Standing Committees.

Duties. The Executive Board shall: Direct activities of the National Society, determine administrative policies, review the financial books, approve the budget, and set dues and fees for membership.

Meetings. Executive Board meetings will be held before and after an annual meeting of the Society. Two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum. Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President. At least three (3) weeks' notice shall be given of a special meeting.

ARTICLE VI – Nominations and Elections

The Executive Board shall elect a Chairman of the Nominating Committee the year before the election of officers. At the annual meeting the Society shall elect two members to serve on the Nominating Committee. Prospective nominees shall be notified and consent to placing their names on the ballot. Nominations from the floor shall be in order at the time of the vote.

Election of officers shall take place at the annual meeting every other year. A majority vote of annual and life members present shall constitute an election. If there are two or more candidates for an office, the vote must be taken by secret ballot.

ARTICLE VII – Meetings

The Society shall hold an annual meeting at a time and place approved by the executive board. This date must be approved by the President. Ample notification shall be given the membership of the date and place of the meeting.

The meeting shall be for the purpose of fellowship among members, for receiving reports of the Executive Board and Committee chairmen, and for transacting any business that may come before the Society. A quorum shall be a majority of the members in good standing and eligible to vote who are present at the annual meeting.

ARTICLE VIII – Dues and Fees

The revenue of the Society shall be derived from annual dues and from any other source the Society may approve which does not jeopardize the tax-exempt status.

Each application for membership shall be accompanied by a registration fee to be set by the Executive Board. A Junior member must pay a registration fee, but does not pay annual dues.

Annual dues are payable in advance by December 1 of each year and are considered delinquent on the following February 1.

Dues for Annual members and Associate members shall be set on the recommendation of the Executive Board and with the approval of a majority of those members present at an annual meeting.

Fees for Life and Life Associate members shall be set on recommendation of the Executive Board and with the approval of a majority of those members present at an annual meeting.

Nonpayment of annual dues for two (2) years shall place a member on the inactive roll. Inactive members may become active by paying the current year's dues. No publications or notices of meetings shall be sent to inactive members.

Each year the Executive Board shall recommend organizations to receive contributions from the Society. These are to be approved by a majority of members present at a meeting. The fiscal year of the Society shall be from October 1 to September 30.

ARTICLE IX - Headquarters

The headquarters of the Society shall be designated as the home of the Registrar or other location as determined by the Executive Board. The records of the Society and the Genealogical Library shall be kept by the Registrar under the control of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE X – Colors and Motto

The colors of this Society shall be red, white, and blue. The motto shall be “The name of Washington shall shed an eternal glory,” a quotation from Orations on the Character of Washington, by Edward Everett (1774-1865).

Robert's Rules of Order shall constitute Parliamentary authority for this Society.

ARTICLE XI – Amendments

Any proposed amendment of these By-laws must first be submitted to the Executive Board for approval. Written notice of the proposed amendment shall be provided to the Executive Board not less than three (3) weeks before the Executive Board meets in regular or special session.

These By-laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of those Annual and Life members present at an annual meeting, provided that written notice containing the proposed amendment as approved by the Executive Board shall be presented to the Annual and Life members not less than three (3) weeks before the meeting at which the amendment is offered. Such notice shall designate the time and place of the meeting.

No amendment shall be made which would jeopardize the tax-exempt status of this Society under Section 501.c (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

ARTICLE XII – Incorporation

This Society is incorporated as a corporation not for profit in a State determined by the Board. Any revision of the By-laws must be submitted by the Treasurer to the Registered Agent for filing with the Secretary of State of the Incorporation State.

ARTICLE XIII—Dissolution

In the event of dissolution of this Society, all of its remaining assets shall be distributed to organizations which the Society supports, and which have qualified for exemption under Section 501.c (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

No part of the net earnings of the Society shall inure to the benefit of any individual.

By accepting and maintaining membership in the Society, each member releases and holds harmless the Society and its officers from and against any claims, demands, or liability resulting from application, interpretation, or enforcement of the By-laws of this Society.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cindy Ann Barr".

Cindy Ann Barr
Treasurer-General
Registered Agent