

**NATIONAL LATINO PEACE OFFICER'S ASSOCIATION
BY-LAWS**



ARTICLE I

Name and address of the Association

SECTION 1. NAME: The name of this corporation (Association) is the National Latino Peace Officers' Association, hereafter referred to as NLPOA.

SECTION 2. ADDRESS: The headquarters of the NLPOA shall be designated by the current board of directors (National Board).

SECTION 3. The National By-laws shall supersede any and all existing local and state by-laws already established. If there is a conflict the National by-laws shall take precedence over all other documents.

ARTICLE II

Mission

The mission of the NLPOA is to function in accordance with its Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Standard Operating Procedures, and other official board of directors policies in safeguarding the associations' Nonprofit Public Benefit Tax Exempt 501 (c) (3) IRS charitable Corporation status.

ARTICLE III

Goal

The goal of the NLPOA is to focus its resources to:

- **Provide professional career development and EEO advocacy for its members.**
- **Network with the Latino community to reduce conflicts between law enforcement and residents.**
- **Provide scholarships and other support to students pursuing careers in law enforcement or related fields.**
- **Assist in community-based programs focused on crime reduction.**
- **Provide resources coupled with community efforts to advance the betterment of the communities we serve.**

ARTICLE IV

Membership

SECTION 1. Membership in this association includes six (6) categories: Regular (sworn peace officer), Associate (non-peace officer), Lifetime, Honorary, Student and Corporate:

- **Regular Member: Any criminal justice or law enforcement professional, active or retired, full time or reserve, who demonstrates dedication to the objectives of NLPOA. "Professional positions" are defined as federal, state, county or locally commissioned peace officers with powers to arrest as designated by the laws of the state in which they are employed.**
- **Associate Member: Any person who does not qualify as a regular member, but who identifies with and supports the objectives of NLPOA. The Board of Directors is charged with monitoring to assure that Associate Members do not comprise more than twenty percent (20%) of the membership. The aforementioned twenty percent limits conform with California Penal Code Section 146(c) and will be adjusted as needed to conform with California Law.**
- **Lifetime Member: Any regular member who has served as a local, regional, state or as national president qualifies for this type of membership. A minimum of 20 years are required to qualify and must be recognized by the National Board of Directors. Lifetime members shall pay no dues to local state or national chapters and shall maintain full regular membership status.**
- **Honorary Member: A designation bestowed by the Board of Directors upon a person who has made exceptional contribution to NLPOA. Honorary members do not pay dues nor do they have the right to vote or hold elected office, with the exception of those who unless they also qualify as regular members.**

- **Student Member**: Any person who is enrolled in high school and or college and is supportive of the goals and objectives of the NLPOA. A student member shall neither have voting privileges nor the right to hold office.
- **Corporate Member**: Any corporation that is supportive of the goals and objectives of NLPOA, and who the Board of Directors chooses to embrace as an advocate. Corporate Members may not vote nor hold office.

SECTION 2. Membership Dues: The amount of dues for membership shall be established by the Board of Directors. It will be an amount appropriate to meet the associations' obligations. Dues are required to be paid to the national treasurer no later than March 15th. If dues are not received and confirmed by the national treasurer by April 15th, the chapter is subject to the following:

- Suspension of benefits under the national umbrella. Benefits include, but are not limited to: training, insurance and use of the national web site.
- Suspension of voting rights and the right to run for a national board position.
- Chapter failing to meet current year dues shall be required to pay any delinquent (past year) dues prior to being reinstated of all NLPOA privileges.

ARTICLE V **Meetings**

SECTION 1. Board of Directors shall meet at least once a year. Additional meetings, if necessary, will be determined by the national president and or by 2/3 of the National Board of Directors. Notice of the meetings with agenda items shall be given no less than (30) days prior to said meetings. State Chapters shall meet at least twice a year. Local chapters shall meet at least every other month.

SECTION 2. All meetings shall be conducted per the rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order and shall govern the NLPOA in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these by-laws and any special rules of order the NLPOA may adopt.

SECTION 3. Membership. The general membership shall meet once annually. Additional meetings (special meeting), may be called by 2/3 of the National Board of Directors and/or by the national president with approval of a simple majority of the BOARD. Notice of the meetings shall be given not less than thirty (30) days prior to the said meeting.

“General Members,” as referred to in these by-laws, are defined as: Regular, Associate, and Lifetime Members. General Member classification does not include Honorary, Student, or Corporate Members.

SECTION 4. Quorum.

- Board of Directors Meetings - Simple majority (50% plus one).
- General Membership Meetings - Simple majority of the members present and voting.

SECTION 5. Only board members, at board meetings, and general members, at membership meetings, in good standing shall be eligible to vote.

SECTION 6. Order of Business: The order of business for the annual meeting shall be as followed:

1. Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation, Roll Call
2. Reading of minutes of previous meeting
3. Treasurer's report
4. Reports & Resolutions
5. Old Business
6. New Business
7. Election Committee - report of the names of those members who are Candidates for an elected office.
8. Election of Officers to this association
9. Installation of officers (at annual banquet)

SECTION 7. Electronic Meetings: A meeting of the board of directors may be conducted by electronic transmission as long as members are able to hear and or see all the proceedings properly and are notified of the electronic meeting and are afforded a reasonable opportunity to participate. Minutes of the meeting shall be maintained.

- Quorum requirements outlined in this article Section 4 shall apply to all electronic meetings.

ARTICLE VI

Board of Directors

SECTION 1. The Board of Directors shall consist of the officers elected to national office which will consist of the following plus the duly elected state presidents and the Co-founder:

- National President
- Vice Presidents
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Parliamentarian
- Historian
- El Puente Editor
- Co-Founder
- State Presidents

SECTION 2. National Officers

- **PRESIDENT:** shall preside at all general membership and national board meetings. He/she shall represent this association at all public and official functions. He/she shall be responsible for referring all matters requiring committee action to the pertinent committee chair, coordinate the work and performance of elected officials. He/she is an active or retired sworn peace officer. The president shall have the power to appoint general counsel to the NLPOA.
 - With concurrence of the national board, the president may appoint members to committees.
 - The National Board shall have the power to overturn a president's appointment with a 2/3-majority vote of the board.
- **VICE-PRESIDENTS:** shall assist the president in any manner requested by the president, and, in his absence, president will select a vice president who shall act in his/her behalf during board meetings and public and official gatherings. Members may only hold the office of vice-president if he/she is an active or retired sworn peace officer. The vice-president must be a member of the local chapter and reside in the region.
- **TREASURER:** shall be responsible for the financial management of the association and shall keep all financial records current. The treasurer shall also maintain a current, complete and accurate record of all members and chapters of this association who are in good standing. Disbursements for this association shall be made by check, signed by the president and/or the treasurer. All records shall be open to any member of this association. An audit by an independent accredited public accounting firm shall be done with every new elected NLPOA administration and presented to the new incoming NLPOA National Board. The treasurer shall submit a written quarterly financial statement to the board. He/she shall submit a detailed financial statement to the general membership for the previous year.
- **SECRETARY:** shall keep a record of attendance, take minutes at general membership and board meetings and provide the minutes to the national board within (15) days of such meetings.
- **PARLIAMENTARIAN:** shall assist the president to conduct the meetings in an orderly manner in compliance with the by-laws and or Robert's Rules of Order; as well as other duties as assigned. The Parliamentarian shall chair any committee related to the review and or amendment to the governing documents,
- **HISTORIAN:** compiles and maintains a history of activities in which this Association participates.

- **EL PUENTE EDITOR:** shall be responsible for the development, publication and distribution quarterly of the official newsletter of this Association.
- **NLPOA CO-FOUNDER:** Vicente Calderon holds a permanent voting position in the national board. When requested, he may chair a committee or other duties as necessary. He may act as an ambassador with state and local chapters as well as provide counseling to the national president and board members.
- **STATE PRESIDENTS:** shall represent their state chapters at National Board of Directors meetings and perform other duties as assigned. Are elected by their respective state members. The state presidents shall ensure that their state chapters are in compliance with their state articles of incorporation.

SECTION 3. Advisors to the National Board of Directors Advisors shall not vote as members of the NLPOA Board of Directors.

- **IMMEDIATE NLPOA PAST PRESIDENT:** serves until a new national president is elected. The past president provides guidance to the newly elected president and continues to assist the association as requested by the NLPOA President and/or Board of Directors.
- **NLPOA GENERAL COUNSEL:** appointed by the president with the approval of the National Board of Directors and must be an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of California.

SECTION 4. Powers of the national board of directors consist of administering NLPOA operations and responsibilities as they pertain to the goals and objectives of the association. Unless authorized by the national board, no officer, agent, or other individuals shall have any power to bind the association by contract or render it liable for any purpose or any amount. The NLPOA general counsel shall review all contracts prior to their approval. Contracts shall only be approved at National Board of Director Meetings after discussion by a simple majority of the members present. The National Secretary will notify the entire Board of Directors in writing that a contract was approved/disapproved. The National Treasurer and one other National Board of Directors member shall sign all approved contracts.

The National Board of Directors collectively shall work as a committee to:

- Seek financial resources necessary to enable the association to operate in a financially sound manner
- Establish programs for networking with community-based organizations
- Establish strategies for recruiting diversity in Law enforcement as well as new NLPOA members.

- **Plan short and long term goals and establish methods to determine if such goals are being met.**
- **Establish Guidelines for the association scholarship programs and disbursement of such funds needed to accomplish this goal.**

ARTICLE VII **Elections**

SECTION 1. Election Committee: shall be established by the president with the approval of the Board of Directors no less than 60 days prior to elections on election years and should consist of at least three (3) members. No more than one member from any one state shall be appointed. The election committee is responsible for insuring that election information is published and made available for members seeking elected office.

SECTION 2. Only general members in good standing shall be eligible to hold national office, make nominations and vote. No proxy allowed.

SECTION 3. The elections shall be by secret ballot.

SECTION 4. The term of office for elected national board members shall be two years.

SECTION 5. Nominations from the floor shall be accepted.

ARTICLE VIII **Removal from Office**

Elected officers or members of the Board of Directors may be removed from office by a 2/3 vote of the board for cause.

ARTICLE IX **Vacancies**

SECTION 1. Whenever the national president is unable to attend to his/her responsibilities, he/she will appoint a vice-president to serve as president. In the event that the President and the appointed vice-president are unable to attend to their responsibilities the remaining board members shall elect a regular member from the board of directors via a simple majority of the remaining board members to complete the term of president. The president shall then with the approval of the remaining board members appoint a vice president from the remaining regular board members.

SECTION 2. Vacancies, other than the offices of president and vice president: the president (with concurrence of the national board) may fill vacancies as necessary by appointment.

ARTICLE X
Committees

SECTION 1. The NLPOA should have the following standing committees:

- **PUBLICITY AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE** disseminates information regarding law enforcement issues consistent with policies and objectives of this association. Committee members shall assist the publication editor in developing and relaying pertinent information to the general membership.
- **FINANCIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE** audits this association's financial records. They will review expenditures and make recommendations on fiscal policies. The committee shall make a report to the general membership at the annual meeting.
- **BY-LAWS COMMITTEE** reviews the By-laws and makes recommendations on changes. The general membership at the annual training conference shall vote changes on.
- **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE** keeps the membership informed of related activities and issues affecting this association.
- **SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE** establishes guidelines for the association's scholarship program to be utilized by the association in the distribution of scholarship funds. This committee makes bi-annual reports to the national board.
- **STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES COMMITTEE** is responsible for maintaining, updating and distributing to all concerned any rules or regulations established by the board of directors affecting the operations of the association.
- **NATIONAL CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE** will work with the host chapter in an advisory capacity and provide assistance when requested by the host chapter. The committee may include, in an advisory capacity, persons deemed necessary to effectively formulate the conference agenda, program, budget and time lines. The committee shall consider the economic concerns of the host chapter and submit its recommendations to the national board for approval.

ARTICLE XI

Finances

All monies of the association shall be placed in an appropriately established fund account in a creditable bank.

ARTICLE XII

Chapters

SECTION 1. This national association is established as an umbrella association that recognizes and charters state and local chapters as organizational structures for the management of its membership. The state association shall be established under the national association and all local chapters shall be established under both the state and national association.

SECTION 2. All newly recognized chapters will undergo a period of probation, not to exceed nine (9) months. During the probationary period, the state president in whose jurisdiction the chapter resides, will monitor and assist to insure that the new chapter has the ability to exist as its own. Probation may be terminated at any time prior to the 9-month period, upon recommendation of the national vice president or state president where the chapter is established.

ARTICLE XIII

Dissolution

On dissolution of this association, any funds remaining shall be distributed to one or more regularly organized and qualified charitable, educational, scientific, or philanthropic organizations to be selected by the NLPOA national board.

ARTICLE XIV

Amendments

These by-laws may be amended or altered by a two-thirds vote of the majority of the general members in attendance at the annual training conference. The desired amendment shall be posted on the NLPOA website no less than 30 days prior to the General Membership vote.

ARTICLE XV

Political Action

Neither the NLPOA, nor any of its State or Local chapters shall engage directly in any political activity. The Association shall not participate in the publication or distribution of statements in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. All political action requests shall be referred to the National Latino Peace Officers Association Advocacy (NLPOAA).

ARTICLE XVI

Logo

The NLPOA official branding logo uniting our members is a gold colored leafed seven-point star with a gold colored figure of an Aztec God in the center against a white field. Encircling the Aztec God and white field is a narrow uniform band with two inscriptions:

- **“LATINO PEACE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION.”** from left to right across top of and around the Aztec God;
- **“NATIONAL”** inscribed on the bottom of the band.
- **The letters shall be gold colored against a royal blue field.**
- **A solid filled gold colored star shall be centered in the space between “Latino” and “National” and between “National” and “Association.”**
- **At the bottom of the figure and beneath the encircling band is a crescent shaped ribbon with the initials “L.P.O.A.” an acronym for Latino Peace Officers Association.**
- **This ribbon shall be a crescent shaped band and the letters shall be gold colored against a royal blue field.**
- **The national board shall apply for trademark protection for this logo. State and local chapters shall not make any modifications with respect to the use of the NLPOA Logo without the express permission of the national board. Changes to this logo shall only be made through the amendment process described in Article XVI of these bylaws.**
 - **State and local chapters shall not make any modifications with respect to the use of the NLPOA Logo without the express permission of the national board. Changes to this logo shall only be made through the amendment process described in Article XVI of these bylaws.**

National Latino Peace Officers Association

By-laws

Approved June 20, 2015

Miami, Florida