

# NATIONAL LATINO PEACE OFFICERS 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 Executive Board).

## 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; (1) Provide professional career development and EEO advocacy for its members. (2) Network with the Latino community to reduce conflicts between law enforcement and residents. (3) Provide scholarships and other support to students pursuing careers in law enforcement or related fields. (4) Assist in community-based programs focused on crime reduction ..(4) Provide resources coupled with community efforts to advance the betterment of the general public.

## ARTICLE I

### Membership

**SECTION I Membership** in this Association includes six (6) categories: Regular (sworn peace officer), Associate (non peace officer), Lifetime, Honorary, Student and Corporate:

A. 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.

B. 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 Mem bers do not comprise more than twenty percent (20%) of the membership. The aforementioned twenty percent limit conforms with California Penal Code Section 146(c)and will be adjusted as needed to conform with California Law.

C. 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. Lifetime members shall pay no dues and shall maintain full membership status, including the privilege of holding office and voting.

D. 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.

E. Student Member: Any person who is enrolled in High School and or College and is supportive of the goals and objectives of the National Latino Peace Officers Association. A Student member shall neither have voting privileges nor the right to hold office.

F. 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 amou nt appropriate to meet the Associations obligations. Dues are required to be paid to the National Treasu rer no later then January 15th. If dues are not received and confirmed by the National Treasurer by February 1st\ 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.

A. 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 II

## 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 then (30) days prior to said meetings. Local chapters shall meet at least every other month.

SECTION 2 Membership. The General membership shall meet once annually. Additional meetings (special meeting), may be called by 2/3 of the BOARD 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 Mem bers.

SECTION 3 Quorum A. Board of Directors Meetings - Simple majority (50% plus one).  
B. General Membership Meetings - Simple majority of the members present and voting.

SECTION 4 - Only Board Members, at Board Meetings, and General Members, at Membership Meetings, in good standing shall be eligible to vote.

SECTION 5 - 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. Nominating 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).

## ARTICLE III Board of Directors

SECTION 1- The Board of Directors shall consist of the officers elected to National Office which consist of the National President, Vice Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary, Parliamentarian, Editor and Historian. The immediate past National President is an active voting position. With concurrence of the National Executive Board, the President may appoint members to committees.

The National Executive Board shall have the power to overturn a President's appointment with a 2/3-majority vote of the board.

SECTION 2 - National Officers (Executive Board)

A. The 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. A person may only be elected and hold the office of PRESIDENT for no more than two, two year terms. He/she is an active or retired sworn peace officer. The President shall have the power to appoint General Counsel to the National Latino Peace Officers Association.

B. The 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.

C. The 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 Executive 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.

D. The RECORDING SECRETARY shall keep a record of attendance; take minutes at General Membership and Executive Board Meetings and provide the minutes to the national executive board within (15) days of such meetings.

E. The 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. He/she will take over the responsibilities of the Sergeant of Arms position during meetings.

F. The HISTORIAN compiles and maintains a history of activities in which this Association participates. The Historian shall chair any committee related to the bylaws or By-law amendments; as well as other duties as assigned.

G. The EI Puente Editor shall be responsible for the development, publication and distribution of the official newsletter of this Association.

H. There shall be no Sergeant at Arms position on the Board of Directors.

I. The NLPOA Co-Founder, Vicente Calderon, holds a permanent voting position in the National Executive 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.

J. 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 Executive Board.

K. NLPOA General Counsel An individual appointed General Counsel must be a duly authorized attorney licensed to practice law in the State of California. The term of the General Counsel shall overlap the term of the President by twelve (12) months.

SECTION 3 - State Presidents, or their duly appointed representatives, sit on the Board of Directors as members.

SECTION 4 - Powers of the National Executive Board of Directors consist of administering LPOA operations and responsibilities as they pertain to the goals and objectives of the Association. Unless authorized by the National Executive 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 prior to approval shall review all contracts.

#### ARTICLE IV- Elections

SECTION 1- A Nomination Committee shall be established by the President (30) 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 Nominating 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 entitled to make nominations and vote. No proxy allowed.

SECTION 3 - The elections shall be by secret ballot.

SECTION 4 - The term of office for elected BOARD members shall be two years.

SECTION 5 - Nominations from the floor shall be accepted.

#### ARTICLE V 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 VI  
Vacancies

SECTION 1- Whenever the National President is unable to attend to his/her responsibilities, the Senior Vice-president shall serve as President.

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

ARTICLE VII  
Committees

SECTION 1The NLPOA should have the following standing committees:

A. The 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.

B. The WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE seeks financial resources necessary to enable the Association to operate in a fiscally sound manner.

C. The 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.

D. The COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE establishes programs for networking with community based organizations.

E. BY-LAWS COMMITTEE reviews the By-laws and makes recommendations on changes. The General Membership at the annual Training Conference shall vote changes on.

F. The RECRUITING COMMITTEE establishes strategies for recruiting Latinos into law enforcement as well as recruiting new NLPOA members.

G. The LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE keeps the membership informed of related activities and issues affecting this Association.

H. The PLANNING COMMITTEE makes recommendations to the National Executive Board with short and long term goals for the Association.

I. The 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 executive board.

J. The 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.

K. The NATIONAL CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE is responsible for any negotiations professional planning companies. 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 VIII Finances

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

#### ARTICLE IX 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 X 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 Executive Board.

#### ARTICLE XI Amendments

These By-Laws may be amended or altered by a two-thirds vote of the a majority of the General Members in attendance at the Annual Training Conference. The desired amendment shall posted on the NLPOA website no less then 30 days prior to the General Membership vote.

ARTICLE XII  
Political Action

SECTION 1 - POLITICAL ACTIVITY

Neither the National Latino Peace Officers Association, 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.

ARTICLE XIII  
Logo

The National Latino Peace Officers Association's official 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: (1) "LATINO PEACE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION." from left to right across top of and around the Aztec God; (2) "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 LPOA Logo without the express permission of the National Board. Changes to this logo shall only be made through the amendment process described in Article XI of these By-laws.

National Latino Peace Officers Association By-laws  
Revision July 3,2010.  
Austin, Texas