



Austin Families Genealogical Society

BYLAWS



The following Articles were designed to implement the corresponding Articles found in the Society's Constitution, which was approved by the ballots of a majority of the Society members in February 2005. The Constitution may be found at the Society's website by following the "About" link.

Article I – Name

The *Austin Families Genealogical Society* name shall appear on the Society's newsletters, books and stationary, along with the further description of the Society as "An International Organization of Austin Family Researchers."

Article II – Purpose

To accomplish the Society's purpose of helping present and future Austin family researchers around the world to discover, document and preserve their Austin family heritage, the Society will:

- a. Actively collect and preserve Austin family records of all types from all parts of the world for the Society's Library. For digital data, the Society Webmaster will purchase software necessary to handle data in all popular formats;
- b. Publish and distribute a newsletter with genealogical and historical information on Austin families from all parts of the world. These newsletters will be periodically indexed and bound as hard-covered volumes and placed in public libraries worldwide that are chosen by the Board of Directors;
- c. The Society Webmaster shall maintain the Society's website, making available as much information on Austin families as possible from the Society's Library and other sources;
- d. Provide direct assistance to Austin family researchers at Society's Annual Conventions and through correspondence with Society genealogists and other members.

Article III – Membership

- a. Dues shall be US\$12.00 a year or US\$22.00 for two years for United States residents. To cover higher postage costs, dues for non-U.S. residents shall be US\$14.00 a year or US\$26.00 for two years. Dues may be paid via credit card in U.S. dollars, or by personal check in other currencies (Canadian dollars, British pounds, etc. using current conversion rates) via volunteer Society Agents in other countries, who will be appointed by the President and approved by the Board of Directors.

Full Members of the Society are defined as those whose dues are currently paid. Full Members shall enjoy all privileges that can be provided by the Society, including but not limited to: (i) Receiving the Society newsletters, (ii) Receiving ballots for voting on Society issues, and (iii) Having complete access to the Society's website information, including copying and printing privileges.

Prospective Members of the Society are those who have shown an interest in researching their Austin roots, but whose dues are not currently paid. Prospective members may receive one complimentary sample copy of the Society newsletter, but shall not receive a Ballot for voting on Society issues, and shall have only Guest access to the Society's website information.

Life Members of the Society are defined as those persons whose age plus continuous years as a Full Member totals 85. Life Members shall be exempt from paying dues, unless they care to do so voluntarily. Life Members shall enjoy the same privileges as Full Members.

- b. The Board of Directors may, by two-thirds majority vote and for good and sufficient reason, terminate or suspend the membership of any person. Such reason shall be stated in writing to the person, and the unused portion of his or her dues shall be returned to him or her.

Article IV – Officers

The Society Officers — President, Secretary, Treasurer, and three Vice-Presidents — shall be elected via ballots distributed with the Society's newsletter to Full and Life Members of the Society. The ballots shall be

counted by a method approved by the Board of Directors. Society Officers shall serve three-year terms. To provide continuity of leadership, one Vice-President shall be elected annually. To initiate this cycle, the first and second elected Vice-Presidents will initially serve only one and two years respectively. All subsequently elected Vice-Presidents will serve three-year terms. The terms for all Officers shall begin on the 1st of January following their election.

Article V – Board of Directors

The Board of Directors shall consist of the elected Officers and appointees. In order to obtain a broader representation of member's interests, additional Society members may be appointed to the Board of Directors by the President with confirmation by the elected Officers. Board deliberations and decisions will generally be made via e-mail, although they may also be made at the Annual Conventions if a majority of the Board of Directors is present. The Board of Directors shall also have the power to establish Committees in furtherance of the Society's objectives, and on such terms as the Board of Directors shall prescribe.

The Board of Directors shall approve Annual Ballots to be distributed with the Society's September newsletter. These Annual Ballots shall will allow Society Full and Life Members to (a) elect Officers, (b) choose the locations for the Society's next Annual Convention, (c) amend the Constitution, or (d) resolve other questions. Voting results shall be published in the Society's newsletter and elsewhere as appropriate.

Article VI – Annual Conventions

The Society shall hold annual meetings known as "International Austin Conventions." These are to be held in countries with a significant number of resident Austin families. Such countries include but are not limited to: Australia, Barbados, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, United Kingdom, and United States. Convention locations may be nominated by any Society members and approved by the Board of Directors for inclusion on the Annual Ballot. The convention shall not be held in the same country in successive years, unless this is determined by a two-thirds majority of the Board of Directors to be unavoidable for good and sufficient reasons. The location shall then be selected by a majority vote of those Society members returning their Annual Ballots.

Article VII – Amendments

Amendments to the Society's Bylaws may be made whenever necessary by a two-thirds majority of the Board of Directors.



Note: The above Bylaws were approved in May 2006 by a two-thirds majority of the Society's Board of Directors.