

**Recodification of the**  
**BY-LAWS**  
**OF THE**  
**MICHIGAN ELKS ASSOCIATION**  
**BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER OF**  
**ELKS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

[The masculine words appearing herein shall include the feminine gender, as circumstances require.]

**PREAMBLE**

The Michigan Elks Association of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America is formed to unite all Elks in closer bonds of fraternity to further good fellowship among Lodges, to protect and promote the interest of the Order in the State of Michigan, to exchange ideas beneficial to the Lodges of this State, and to bear true allegiance to the Constitution and Statutes of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America.

**ARTICLE I - TITLE**

This Association shall be known as the MICHIGAN ELKS ASSOCIATION.

**ARTICLE II - MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1.** Every Lodge in the State of Michigan currently chartered with the Grand Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America, shall become a member of this association, subject to its By-Laws.

**Section 2.** Each member Lodge in good standing shall be entitled to representation to all meetings of the Association whether regular or special by the Exalted Ruler and its Secretary. It shall also be entitled to one additional delegate for each 200 members or major fraction thereof, as shown by its last report to the Grand Lodge. In the absence of a delegate, an alternate designated by the Exalted Ruler may act.

**Section 3.** The delegates and an equal number of alternate delegates shall be elected at each member Lodge or appointed by the Exalted Ruler at a regular meeting of each member Lodge at least twenty-eight (28) days before the annual meeting of the Association. They shall hold office until their successors are elected or appointed. Laws of the Order governing eligibility for office in a local Lodge shall govern in the selection of delegates.

**Section 4.** All elected officers and all members of standing committees of this Association, during their tenure in office, and all Past Presidents of this Association, and all Grand Lodge officers and members of Grand Lodge Committees, affiliated with member Lodges shall be considered as and entitled to the privileges of delegates to the meetings of this Association.

**Section 5.** All Past Exalted Rulers of member Lodges who do not come within the above classification, and all alternate delegates, not serving in place of delegates shall be entitled to all privileges of delegates, except the right to vote.

**Section 6.** Each member shall be entitled to participate in all matters coming before the meeting of the Association except that only delegates from a member lodge in good standing with this Association shall have the right to vote. There shall be no voting by proxy.

**Section 7.** For distinguished service rendered to the Michigan Elks Association or to the Order, Honorary Life Membership may be conferred upon any member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America by not less than two third affirmative vote of those delegates present at the Annual or Fall Meetings. The nomination of a member for election to Honorary Life Membership shall be made in writing

subscribed by the person making the nomination and shall set forth in detail the distinguished service upon which the nomination is based. The nomination shall be presented at a regular meeting of the Association and shall lay over for action until the next regular meeting of the Association and shall be published in the next official publication of the association following the nomination.

### ARTICLE III - MEETINGS

**Section 1.** The Association shall hold two regular meetings each year; the Annual Meeting and the Fall Meeting (Annual and Fall Business Sessions).

**Section 2.** The Annual Meeting shall be held on the third full weekend in May and the Fall Meeting the third full weekend in October. A full weekend must contain Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. The Annual and the Fall Meeting (Business Session) will be held on the Saturday of the designated weekend and further meetings and activities may be scheduled on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, as approved by the Convention Committee, provided such additional meetings and activities do not coincide or conflict with the Annual or Fall Meetings. The combined meetings and activities during the designated weekend will be referred to as the Annual and Fall Convention. Upon the recommendation of the Convention Committee and under certain circumstances the third full weekend requirement may be waived by the Advisory Committee, upon not less than twenty-one (21) days notice in writing to member Lodges.

**Section 3.** The place of the meeting shall be determined by the Convention Committee.

**Section 4.** Regular business shall be conducted at the Annual and Fall Meetings of the Association.

**Section 5.** Special Meetings of the Association may be called by the Board of Trustees upon not less than twenty-one (21) days notice in writing to member Lodges.

**Section 6.** Twenty-five duly accredited delegates, representing not less than ten Lodges, shall constitute a quorum.

### ARTICLE IV - REVENUE

**Section 1.** Each member Lodge shall pay Association dues annually, computed as follows:

(a) The sum of One Dollar for each member on its rolls as of April 1st preceding the Annual Meeting as annual dues to the Association, plus such further amounts as may be determined in the next paragraph. Such annual billings shall be due and payable on or before May 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

(b) On or before December 30 of each year, the Board of Trustees shall determine the additional amount necessary for the continued operation of the Association in its next ensuing fiscal year, such an amount not to exceed \$65,000. In addition to the annual dues above, each member shall be assessed a prorata share of the amount so determined to be applied to the expenses of the Association, pursuant to ARTICLE V, Section 5(b), and such amounts shall be added to the annual dues on a per capita basis.

(c) In the event the Board of Trustees shall deem it in the best interests of the State Association to institute or defend any litigation for a member Lodge that is in common concern to other Lodges of the Michigan Elks Association, or to take other appropriate action, they have the authority to levy a special per capita assessment of not to exceed an additional fifty cents for a period not to exceed one year, for one time only.

**Section 2.** A new Lodge instituted in this State shall be granted membership in this Association, but it shall not be assessed the annual billing until after the first Annual Meeting of the Association following its institution.

### ARTICLE V - OFFICERS

**Section 1.** The elected Officers of this Association shall be a President, a First Vice-President, a Second Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, six District Vice-Presidents, six District Vice-Chairmen, six Trustees, six Major Project Commissioners, and six Charitable Grant Fund Commissioners and Charitable Fund Commissioners will be implemented, as follows:

The President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, District Vice-Presidents, and District Vice-Chairpersons shall be elected annually as hereafter provided. The District Vice-Chairpersons and the District Vice-Presidents may be elected for one additional consecutive term. The President, First Vice-President, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President shall be limited to a single one-year term. The Secretary and the Treasurer shall be elected to one three-year term and may be elected to two additional three-year terms, provided, however, that the Secretary and

Treasurer shall not be elected in the same year as hereafter provided. The Trustees, Major Project Commissioners and Charitable Grant Fund Commissioners shall be limited to one six-year term, except as otherwise hereafter provided.

**(a)** The terms of the Trustees, Major Project Commissioners and Charitable Grant Commissioners:

N.E. District six-year term begins	May 2017
Metro District six-year term begins	May 2018
N.W. District six-year term begins	May 2019
U.P. District six-year term begins	May 2020
S.E. District six-year term begins	May 2021
S. W. District six-year term begins	May 2022

and thereafter in the same rotation.

**(b)** The respective Districts of the Association shall coincide with the Grand Lodge Districts.

**(c)** The newly elected Officers of the Association for the ensuing term will not assume the duties and obligations of their new office until the final closing of the current Association Annual Meeting, regardless of when they may be installed in office, and they shall serve until the closing of the next Annual Meeting of the Association, provided that their respective successors are duly elected and installed prior to or on the date, or on the date of the successor's election and installation.

**Section 2.** Any Elk in good standing in their respective Lodge of the Association, residing within the State of Michigan, shall be eligible to any office, either elective or appointive in this Association, except for the following added qualifications.

**(a)** Only Past Exalted Rulers are eligible for any elective office, excluding Commissioners of the Major Project Commission and the Charitable Grant Commission.

**(b)** Other than the untimely death or resignation of the President, First or Second Vice-Presidents and in addition to the previously stated qualifications and those required for the office of Second Vice-President, nominees for the office of President shall have served a term as First Vice-President.

**(c)** In addition to the previously stated qualifications and those required for the office of Second Vice President, nominees for the office of First Vice-President shall have served a term as Second Vice-President.

**(d)** In addition to the previously stated qualifications, nominees for the office of Second Vice-President shall:

**(d1)** Receive the approval of the nominee's Lodge Past Exalted Rulers Association, certified in writing.

**(d2)** Receive the approval of his Lodge at a regular Lodge meeting, certified in writing, by the Lodge secretary.

**(d3)** Receive the approval of the nominee's District by a majority of the voting delegates at a regular District meeting.

**(d4)** Receive the approval of the Advisory Committee. All qualifications for the office of Second Vice-President shall be submitted in writing on such forms as provided by the committee appointed by the State Advisory Committee, not less than 19 months and not more than 24 Months prior to the scheduled date of Officer's Installation, who shall then present their recommendation to the full Advisory Committee for their approval process. Applications not received within this time frame may be accepted at the discretion of the Advisory Committee.

**(d5)** Successfully complete a term as District Vice-President or District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler.

**(d6)** In addition to the above stated qualifications, the nominee may submit any one or more of the

following achievements to demonstrate his/her qualifications for consideration:

- i. Have served successfully in their Lodge as an Officer including that of Exalted Ruler.
- ii. Have served the Nominee's District as a District Committee person.
- iii. Have served the State Association in any three-year term as Secretary or Treasurer or ~~six~~ three years as a Trustee or Commissioner.
- iv. Have served the State Association as the Chairman of ~~two~~ three or more State Committees.
- v. Have served the Grand Lodge in a responsible position, appointed, or elected; and/or
- vi. Have served successfully in a private or public business; have served his community or another service club exhibiting qualities of leadership and responsibility by holding an elected office in that community or service club. The nominee must be able to demonstrate completion of these qualities in writing.
- vii. Offer such other, or further, qualifications that the approving body may deem relevant and useful for consideration of the Nominee's qualifications for the office.

**(d7)** For purposes of this section, the term "approval" is meant to demonstrate that the "approving body" (i.e. Nominee's Lodge, his/her District, and the Advisory Committee) has carefully evaluated the qualifications of the candidate and determined that the candidate is qualified to fill the office they are seeking. In the event that there is more than one qualified candidate, the "approving body" may submit multiple candidates for further consideration.

**(d8)** For purposes of this section, the phrase "term" shall be defined as a full Association year or Grand Lodge year or the unexpired term of one who, for any cause, failed to complete the term for which he was elected, whichever shall be applicable.

**Section 3.** With the exception of the offices of Second Vice-President, the Secretary and Treasurer, the Election of Officers shall be held annually at the Business Session of the Annual Meeting of the Association. In the event of an election that would require paper ballots to determine the outcome, by a proper motion from the floor and with the majority being in favor, the polls can remain open and the result of the vote could carryover until such a time as declared by the Presiding Officer.

**(a)** Nominations for President and First Vice President shall be accepted during the order of business for the election of officers.

**(b)** Nominations for President, First Vice-President and Second Vice-President shall be for one year terms, respectively, and beginning with the Second Vice President, shall be from a rotation of the districts as follows: Metro District, Northwest District, Upper Peninsula District, Southeast District, Southwest District and the Northeast District.

**(b1)** A District, by a majority of their voting delegates to the District Conference, may waive its turn in the rotation.

**(c)** Nominations for the Second Vice-President, the Secretary and Treasurer shall be accepted during the order of business for the election of officers at the Fall meeting of the Association. The Second Vice-President is elected for a one-year term.

**(d)** The nominees for one year terms for District Vice President and District Vice Chairman; and for extended terms as provided herein for Trustee, Major Project Commissioner, and Charitable Grant Fund Commissioner; shall be the nominees elected by the delegates from the various Lodges in their respective Districts. The name certified to the State Secretary by the District Vice President (or District Secretary) shall be presented

under the business of election of officers as the "District Officers Elect" of that District.

(e) In the event no candidates are selected by the District, the presiding officer shall accept nominations from the floor of the session for that particular office.

(f) In case there shall be more than one nominee, ballots shall be spread in the regular manner to the registered eligible voting delegates in attendance during the business of election of officers, the outcome decided by a majority voting.

**Section 4.** In the event any elected office shall become vacant, except the office of the First or Second Vice- Presidents, it shall be filled as soon as practical by the President and the Board of Trustees of the Association until the next regular meeting of the Association at which time each officer shall be elected to fill out the term of the vacated office.

(a) In the event of the untimely death or resignation of the President, the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President and then the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President shall be given the option of advancing to the next available Office. The current highest ranking Officer shall by Executive Order and with the approval and concurrence of the State Advisory Committee, appoint an individual to fill the vacancy until the next regular meeting of the Association at which time each officer shall be elected to fill out the term of the vacated office.

(b) In the event of the untimely death or resignation of the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President shall be given the option of advancing to the position of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President. The President shall by Executive Order and with the approval and concurrence of the State Advisory Committee, appoint an individual to fill the vacancy until the next regular meeting of the Association at which time ~~each~~ such officer shall be elected to fill out the term of the vacated office.

(c) In the event of the untimely death or resignation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President, the President shall by Executive Order and with the approval and concurrence of the State Advisory Committee, appoint an individual to fill the vacancy until the next regular meeting of the Association at which time such officer shall be elected to fill out the term of the vacated office.

**Section 5.** The six Trustees of this Association and the President, as here-in-after provided, shall constitute the Board of Trustees. There shall be one Trustee elected from each State Association District. Trustees shall be elected for a term of six years to fill expiring terms. No Trustee shall hold office for more than one term. As a result of any current or future re-districting, the present term of any affected Trustee as they currently expire, shall be considered their final term.

The terms of the six Trustees shall be staggered at 1-year intervals, thus creating a Six Year Trustee, a Five-Year Trustee, a Four-Year Trustee, a Three-Year Trustee, a Two-Year Trustee and a One Year Trustee. The expiration dates for the six Trustees shall coincide with the Rotation Schedule for the Districts (Article V, Section 3 (b)).

In the event that a Trustee position becomes vacant, the President and the Board of Trustees shall appoint a qualified Member to such vacated office, who shall serve until his successor shall be duly elected and appointed and qualified. Such appointment must be from the District of the vacated Trustee position.

If any unexpired term is less than 3 years, it shall not count as a full term and the Trustee elected to fill that term may run for a full term as the current term expires.

(a) The Board of Trustees shall annually employ an independent firm of Certified Public Accountants to make an audit of the books of the Association at the end of each fiscal year, in those years when an audit is required under the laws of the State of Michigan. When an audit is not required, the Board of Trustees shall cause to be performed either a Financial Examination or a Financial Review, in accord with the terms and conditions and laws of the State of Michigan. The Michigan Elks Association Major Project Commission and the Michigan Elks Association Charitable Grant Fund Commission will employ the same Auditing firm as the Association to perform an audit of their books and records in those years when an audit is required under the laws of the State of Michigan. When an audit is not required, the Commissions shall cause to be performed either a Financial Examination or a Financial Review, in accord with the terms and conditions of the By-Laws of the respective Commissions, as approved by the PSP Committee.

(b) Immediately foregoing the Annual Meeting, the Board of Trustees shall elect a Chairman, a Secretary and an Approving Member. The Approving Member shall preside over Board Meetings in the absence or disability of the Chairman. The Board of Trustees shall during the interim between meetings of the Association take general charge of its property and the direction of its affairs. During such interim it shall be the governing body of the Association and it shall take such action as may be necessary to promote its objects and protect its interests. It shall have control of the finances of the Association and shall recommend ways and means of raising funds to defray the expenses of the association. It shall prepare and submit at the annual Meeting a budget for the ensuing year and said budget shall include a sum sufficient to cover the necessary expenses of the Association and the Michigan Hospitality room at Grand Lodge.

(c) The Board of Trustees shall have and shall make rules and regulations for the conduct of members of the Order attending. The Board of Trustees shall pass upon all bills for accounts to be paid from funds of the Association before warrants for payment therefore shall be issued. The President shall be an ex-officio member of the Board of Trustees and shall be entitled to vote as such.

**Section 6.** The President shall be the chief executive officer of this Association. He shall preside at all the meetings, decide all questions of order subject to appeal to the Association, appoint all committees not otherwise provided for and perform such other duties as may be required of him by action of the Association and such as are customarily performed by the chief executive officer of the Association. It shall be his duty to make such official visits to the Lodges comprising this Association as the interests of the Association require, and to attend all district meetings as he shall be able, and shall otherwise delegate this duty to another elective state officer.

**Section 7.** The First Vice-President shall assist the President in the performance of his duties; shall preside at the meetings of the Association in the absence of the President; shall perform the duties of the President in event of absence or temporary disability of the President; and shall succeed to the office of the President in the event of death, resignation, removal or permanent disability of the President. He/She shall also act as the Chairman of Officer Training Committee and shall plan and facilitate training for Officers in the Association, including Local Lodge, District and State Officers and who may appoint such members of this committee as he/she may deem appropriate.

**Section 8.** The Second Vice-President shall assist the President in the performance of his duties; shall perform the duties of the President in the event of the absence or temporary disability of both the President and the first Vice-President, and shall succeed to the office of First Vice-President in the event of death, resignation, removal or permanent disability of the First Vice-President. He shall also act as the State Coordinator for the Grand Lodge Convention.

**Section 9.** It shall be the duty of each District Vice-President to visit Lodges in his District, promote Inter-Lodge visits, and ritualistic contests among the Lodges in his District. Upon official visitation to each Lodge in his District, the District Vice-President, shall on forms furnished by the President, complete his report and send same to the President with a copy to the First Vice-President and the Second Vice-President, State Sponsor and the Past State Presidents from that District within ten days of each Lodge visitation.

**Section 10.** The Lodges of the six Districts may organize District conferences composed of the Lodges of the respective Districts. Where such an organization is formed, it shall observe the laws of the Order and be subject to the following regulations: The District Vice-President shall be Chairman of the District Conference and he shall appoint a Secretary-Treasurer or the District may choose to elect the Secretary-Treasurer. Each Lodge in the district shall be entitled to be represented in the District Conference by its Exalted Ruler, Secretary, Leading Knight, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and by one additional representative for each two hundred members or major fraction thereof as shown by its last annual report to the Grand Lodge. The additional representatives shall be appointed by the Exalted Ruler with approval of the Lodge. The Chairman shall appoint such committees as he deems necessary to arrange for and conduct the District meetings.

**Section 11.** It shall be the duty of each District Vice-Chairman to serve as Membership Chairman for the District.

**Section 12.** The Secretary shall attend all meetings of the Association, keep a true record of the proceedings, preserve all books and documents and perform such other duties of his office as may be required by the Association, execute and deliver to the board of Trustees a faithful performance bond, with corporate surety, in the sum of \$25,000.00. The expense of such bond shall be paid by the Association.

**Section 13.** The Treasurer shall attend all meetings of the Association. He will have custody of all funds belonging to the Association. He shall pay out the money of the Association only when proper warrants drawn by the Secretary and countersigned by the Approving Member of the Board of Trustees or the Chairman are submitted to the Treasurer. He shall, before assuming the duties of his office, execute and deliver to the Board of Trustees a faithful performance bond, with corporate surety, in the sum of \$25,000.00. The expense of such bond shall be paid by the Association.

**Section 14.** The President shall appoint a Sergeant-at-Arms, a Chaplain, a Tiler, an Organist, Soloist and an Aide-to-the President, to serve at his pleasure during his term of office.

**Section 15.** The Sergeant-at-Arms shall execute the orders of the President, assist in preserving order, act as marshal on public occasions and perform such other duties as are properly required by him.

**Section 16.** The Chaplain shall attend all meetings of the Association and perform such duties as are customary to be performed by such officer.

**Section 17.** The Tiler shall attend all meetings of the Association, have charge of the order of the hall in which meetings are held and shall perform the duties incident to the office of Tiler of an Elks Lodge.

**Section 18.** The Aide-to-The President shall attend all meetings of the Association and perform such duties as the President shall assign to him.

**Section 19.** The Organist shall attend all meetings of the Association and perform such duties as the President shall assign to him.

**Section 20.** The Soloist shall attend all meetings of the Association and perform such duties as the President shall assign to him.

**Section 21.** The officers-elect and appointed shall be installed on the last day of the Annual Meeting, unless otherwise designated by the President, according to the ritual adopted by the Association. At least one month before each annual meeting, the President shall designate the date and the time of installation and with the concurrence of the 1<sup>st</sup>. Vice-President, designate the installing officers. Upon such designation, the Secretary shall notify such installing officers and they shall prepare to perform the ceremony from memory.

**Section 22.** The President shall make a report at the Annual Meeting and at the Fall Meeting of his activities and the work of the Association under his administration. The First and Second Vice-Presidents shall make a report at the Annual Meeting and at the Fall Meeting of their activities for the Association. Each District Vice-President shall report to the President at least twenty-eight (28) days before the Annual Meeting upon the work he has done during the year. A combined District Vice President's report can be given at the annual meeting by a District Vice President selected by the President. The Secretary shall submit a report of his office at each Annual Meeting, stating the financial conditions of the Association. The Treasurer shall submit a report of his office at the next regular meeting of the Association following the end of the Association fiscal year, stating the financial conditions of the Association. A copy of all Officer and Committee Chairman reports shall be sent to the President at least twenty-eight (28) days prior to the Annual or Fall Meeting.

**Section 23.** No officer or committeeman shall receive a salary. No officer or committeeman shall contract obligations without prior approval of the Board of Trustees.

**Section 24.** The Officers of the Association, the Advisory Committee and chairmen of all committees of this Association, while attending official meetings of the Association, legally called, or when on any official business of this Association, may be allowed such necessary traveling expenses and such diem for services as shall be determined by the Trustees.

**Section 25.** The President and the Trustees, acting as the Board of Trustees, shall have the power to remove from office any officer, elective or appointive, whenever the good of the Association requires it. The order of removal must be in writing and shall be subject to review by the delegates at the next Annual Meeting. In the event the Board of Trustees shall remove any officer under the provisions of this Section, said Board shall appoint a qualified member to such vacated office, who shall serve until his successor shall be duly elected and appointed and qualified.

**Section 26** Should Districts of the Association be required to make any future adjustments, no Trustees, Major Project Commissioners, Charitable Grant Fund Commissioners, District Vice-Presidents or District Vice-

Chairmen shall be eliminated. Affected individuals will continue to represent their current District Organization until their current term expires or they resign at which time, appropriate adjustments will be made.

## ARTICLE VI - COMMITTEES

**Section 1. (a)** The President immediately following his installation shall appoint the following standing committees to consist of six members (one from each District) or more.

Americanism	
National Foundation	
Business Practices	National Veterans Service
Drug Awareness	Public Relations
Government Relations	Ritual
Hoop Shoot®®	Scholarship
Lodge Activities/Star Lodge Award	Special Events/Organ Donor
Membership/Lapsation	Youth Activities

**(b)** The President shall also appoint the following:

- Law
- Registration
- Resolutions
- Accident Prevention/Risk Coordinator
- Adopt-A-Veteran Chairman
- Editor for the Michigan Elks News
- New Lodge Development Chairman
- Photographer
- Social Media Administrator
- Webmaster

**Section 2.** The Past Presidents of the Association shall constitute the Advisory Committee, with the following duties:

- (a)** To meet with and advise the President and any other State and/or District Officers, upon request, with respect to matters regarding the general good of the Association.
- (b)** To bear total responsibility for conducting and coordination of the conventions, including, but not limited to, site selection and housing designation. The Advisory Committee may appoint a committee of members to assist in the furtherance of the duties herein imposed.
- (c)** To have the authority to cancel, postpone or change the format, date, time, or location of either the Fall Meeting or the Annual Meeting and associated meetings and activities of the Association as circumstances require.
- (d)** To appoint a By-Law Committee

**Section 3.** The District Deputies of the State, in accord with the State Sponsor, shall constitute a committee on Grand Lodge. It shall be the duty of this committee to coordinate and promote the relations between this Association and the Grand Lodge, to report upon all resolutions and reports concerning amendments to the Constitution of the Grand Lodge and especially upon all resolutions endorsed by this Association.

The District Vice-Presidents shall constitute a Committee on Inter-Lodge relations. It shall be the duty of the committee to arrange for interchange of visits among the local Lodges and to promote District meetings throughout the State.

**Section 4.** The President shall have the power to name special committees to have charge of the different features of the Annual Meeting and such other special committees as in his opinion are necessary for the good of the Association.

**Section 5.** The Committee on Americanism shall have the duty to act as liaison agents between the Americanism coordinator of the Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee and the Lodges of the Michigan Elks Association.



**Section 6.** The Committee on Business Practices shall be available in the Lodges of the Michigan Elks Association to aid in any problems under their jurisdiction.

Section 7. The Officer Training Committee shall be chaired by the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President and shall be responsible for developing and presenting training to all levels of the Association, including member lodges and their members, State, and District Officers.

**Section 8.** The Drug Awareness Committee shall have the responsibility of furnishing Drug Awareness materials, including brochures and pamphlets at no cost to parents and teachers and any other organizations whose programs are to stop drug abuse. Such committee shall be charged with implementing the Drug Awareness Program of the Lodge, State Association, and the Grand Lodge.

**Section 9.** The Government Relations committee shall be charged with implementing the Government Relations Program of the Lodge, State Association, and the Grand Lodge.

**Section 10.** The Hoop Shoot®® committee shall be charged with implementing the Hoop Shoot Program of the Lodge, State Association and the Grand Lodge.

**Section 11.** The Lodge Activities Committee/Star Lodge Award Committee shall be charged with implementing the Lodge Activities Program of the Lodge, State Association, and the Lodge Activities Coordinator of the Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee.

**Section 12.** It shall be the duty of the Membership/Lapsation Chairman to compute and announce the percentage of membership net gain of each District in the Association based on Membership Statistics reported on Grand Lodge Membership Reports. It shall also be his duty to compute and announce the percent of members dropped and members in arrears based on Membership Statistics reported on Grand Lodge Membership Reports. The Chairman shall develop and promote various incentive programs for use by the Lodges and to promote and achieve the goals of the Membership Coordinator of the Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee and the State Association.

**Section 13.** The National Foundation Committee shall have the duty to publicize the Elks National Foundation, to promote its programs, activities and charities, to encourage and solicit contributions, and to appropriately recognize all gifts made to the Foundation. Such committee shall have no jurisdiction over the scholarship contest or other activities sponsored by the Foundation Trustees.

**Section 14.** The Elks National Veterans Service Committee shall implement the program of the Elks National Service commission within the Lodge and State Association as may be requested by the commission in the furtherance of Service to the Veterans.

**Section 15.** New Lodge Development Committee shall be responsible for investigating and reporting areas in the State that may be possible locations for a new lodge, and thereafter determining interest of the communities in having such a lodge located in it and then providing assistance in its formation.

**Section 16.** The Public Relations Committee is charged with implementing the Public Relations Program of the Lodge, State Association, and the Grand Lodge.

**Section 17.** The State Ritual Committee shall be invested with full power and authority to make rules and regulations relating to District and State Ritualistic Contests pursuant to the Grand Lodge. It shall promptly report to the Grand Lodge Ritualistic Committee the results of said State contest:

PREAMBLE: The State Ritualistic Chairman shall organize and conduct a State Ritualistic Competition to be held to coincide with the Spring Convention of the Michigan Elks Association at a time, date and place to be determined by State Ritual Chairman and Convention Director. State Ritual Contest participants and judging will follow the most recent Rules and Regulations of the Grand Lodge Ritualistic Contest. The State Chairman shall promptly report the results of the State Contest to the Grand Lodge Ritualistic Committee.

a. The most recent Ritual of Initiation is the only one that shall be used for judging at all Ritualistic Contests. The State Ritual Committee shall be invested with full power and authority to make rules and regulations relating to such contests pursuant to the Grand Lodge rules pertaining to Grand Lodge Ritual Contests. It shall promptly report to the Grand Lodge Ritualistic Committee the results of said State

contest.

- b. Any Michigan Lodge Ritualistic Team may register for competing at the State Ritual Contest. Maximum of two (2) Lodges per District is permissible. In the event there are more than two lodges seeking to compete in the State Competition from any District, the District shall determine the means by which the final two lodges will be selected, including a run-off ritual competition or any other method selected by a majority of the attendees at the District meeting where to matter arises. State Contest registrations must be received by the State Ritual Chairman no later than March 1 to be eligible to compete in the upcoming State Ritual Contest.
- c. In no event shall there be more than (12) teams in the State Ritualistic Competition, nor more than two (2) lodges from any District. In event there are more than six (6) Teams Registered, a two-day contest ~~will~~ may be required.
- d. The competition shall be conducted by the State Ritualistic Committee in accordance with the ritualistic rules and regulations established by the Grand Lodge and the Ritualistic Committee of the Michigan Elks Association.
- e. The most recent Ritual of Initiation is the only one that shall be used for judging at all Ritualistic Contests. The Ritual Committee shall arrange for and conduct District contests (as necessary) and a State Contest.
- f. The winner of this competition will be declared to be the State Ritual Champion and shall thereafter attend the Grand Lodge Ritualistic Competition as the Michigan Representative.
- g. Results of the State Ritual Competition are to be announced at the President's Banquet at the Spring Convention.
- h. The Michigan Elks Association will provide for lodging and the President's Banquet at the State Convention for the following persons associated with this competition:
  1. State Ritual Chairman
  2. Assigned Ritual Judges

**Section 18.** The Scholarship Committee shall prepare, supervise, and carry out the programs of the Grand Lodge on behalf of the students and schools of our State. It shall have charge and supervision of all matters referred to it by the Grand Exalted Ruler or the Grand Lodge pertaining to the Scholarship programs of the Order.

**Section 19.** The Special Events/Organ Donor Committee shall be charged with implementing the Special Events Program of the Association.

**Section 20.** The Youth Activities Committee shall prepare, supervise and carry out all programs of the Order on behalf of the youth of our State. It shall have charge and supervision of all matters referred to it by the Grand Exalted Ruler and the Youth Activities Coordinator of the Grand Lodge Activities Committee pertaining to the youth programs of the Order.

**Section 21.** The By-Law Committee will be in charge of reviewing the By- Laws of the Association and any changes shall be referred to the Law Committee for approval.

**Section 22.** The Law Committee shall have referred to it and shall report to this association all proposed amendments to the constitution and By-Laws and all proposed resolutions. The chairman of this committee shall be the chief law officer of the Association and shall assist the President in the interpretation of its laws. All proposed amendments shall have endorsed thereon, the name of the Lodge of the proposer, accompanied by a short statement as to the reasons for the change.

**Section 23.** The Registration Committee shall have the responsibility of registering all delegates at the conventions. The Chairman will give a preliminary and final report of all that are registered.

**Section 24.** The Resolutions Committee shall prepare and report to the Association all Resolutions pertaining to the business of the Association, provided such proposed resolutions shall be presented to the

Chairman of the Resolutions Committee at least twenty-eight (28) days prior to the Annual Meeting.

**Section 25.** The Accident Prevention/Risk Coordinator shall have the responsibility of disseminating information to the Lodges concerning the Grand Lodge Insurance Programs and to coordinate completion of the insurance self-inspection reports

**Section 26.** The Adopt-A-Veteran Chairman shall coordinate all activities concerning veteran adoption with regular Lodge communications.

**Section 27.** The Editor of the Michigan Elk News shall oversee the publication and distribution of the quarterly news magazine. The Editor shall also be responsible for submitting copies to Grand Lodge for judging.

**Section 28.** The Photographer shall be responsible for taking pictures at the Association's Meeting, Social and Charitable events as directed by the President. The Photographer shall also be responsible to furnish copies of pictures to the Editor of the Michigan Elks News.

**Section 29.** The Social Media administrator shall post all material forwarded to him by State Officers and Committee Chairs. With the approval of the State President and Grand Lodge Sponsor, and following Grand Lodge guidelines for using social media, such other material as may be submitted from the general membership may also be posted on the Michigan Elks Association Facebook page. The Social Media administrator shall also coordinate with the State Webmaster for all such material posted. In addition, the Social Media Administrator will coordinate and assist in the development of various sites available for social media, and in the dissemination of information regarding the Association, Districts and Lodges, consistent with Grand Lodge guidelines for using social media.

**Section 30.** The State Webmaster shall maintain the Michigan Elks Association webpage, MIELKS.org, and keep it current with the Association Officers, Committees, Programs, and current News Items. He shall post on the website only such material as is forwarded to him by State Officers and Committee Chairs. He shall also submit the website to Grand Lodge for judging against other State Associations of the Order.

## ARTICLE VII--COMMISSIONS

**Section 1.** There is hereby established within the Michigan Elks Association the following benevolent, humanitarian and charitable activities to engage the efforts and attention of each Local Lodge and all the members of the Order in Michigan, which shall be known as:

- a. The Michigan Elks Association Charitable Trust,
- b. The Michigan Elks Association Major Project,
- c. The Michigan Elks Association Charitable Grant Fund.

The administration and management of each shall be vested in individual and separate Charitable Commissions known as:

- a. The Michigan Elks Association Charitable Trust Commission,
- b. The Michigan Elks Association Major Project Commission
- c. The Michigan Elks Association Charitable Grant Fund (Gold Key Scholarship) Commission

**Section 2.** The Michigan Elks Association Charitable Trust Commission shall be comprised of the six members serving as State Trustees.

**Section 3.** The Michigan Elks Association Major Project Commission shall be comprised of six members consisting of not more than one commissioner from each District, and whose term of office shall be six years and staggered so that at each Annual Meeting of the Michigan Elks Association additional commissioners shall be elected to fill the vacancy created by or to the expiration of the terms of office of each commissioner. The terms of the six Commissioners shall be staggered at 1-year intervals, thus creating a Six Year Commissioner, a Five-Year Commissioner, a Four-Year Commissioner, a Three-Year Commissioner, a Two-Year Commissioner and a One Year Commissioner. The expiration dates for the six Commissioners shall coincide with the Rotation Schedule for the Districts, pursuant to Article V, Section 3 (b).

**Section 4.** The Michigan Elks Association Charitable Grant Fund (Gold Key Scholarship) Commission shall be comprised of six members consisting of not more than one commissioner from each District, and whose term of office shall be six years and staggered so that at each Annual Meeting of the Michigan Elks Association additional

commissioners shall be elected to fill the vacancy created by or to the expiration of the terms of office of each commissioner. The terms of the six Commissioners shall be staggered at 1-year intervals, thus creating a Six Year Commissioner, a Five-Year Commissioner, a Four-Year Commissioner, a Three-Year Commissioner, a Two-Year Commissioner and a One Year Commissioner. The expiration dates for the six Commissioners shall coincide with the Rotation Schedule for the Districts (Article V, Section 3 (b)).

**Section 5.** No commissioner of any Charitable Commission shall hold office more than one term. As a result of any current or future re-districting, the present term of any affected commissioners as they currently expire, shall be considered their final term.

**Section 6.** In the event that a Commissioner position becomes vacant, the President and the Board of Trustees shall appoint a qualified Member to such vacated office, who shall serve until his successor shall be duly elected and appointed and qualified. Such appointment must be from the District of the vacated Commissioner position.

If any unexpired term is less than 3 years, it shall not count as a full term and the Commissioner elected to fill that term may run for a full term as the current term expires.

**Section 7.** Each Commission shall elect its own Chairman and other officers as determined by their respective By Laws. The President of the Michigan Elks Association shall be a member of each Charitable Commission with voting authority. The First Vice-President and the Second Vice-President shall be ex-officio members of each Charitable Commission without voting authority.

**Section 8.** Each Charitable Commission is empowered to operate, manage, and control their respective commissions to apply and expend for said charitable purposes any monies contributed by the Elks of Michigan or any other donors, to the respective Commissions Activities and to plan and execute campaigns or activities for the raising of additional monies for the furtherance of the Charitable Commission activities of the Association.

All local Lodges in the State of Michigan shall instruct their secretaries to add to their April Dues notice of each year, the words "Special Needs (Handicapped) Children \$1.00 or more", or in any manner whatsoever raise an equal amount to one dollar or more per member as shown on their membership rolls, and within ninety days after April first of each year remit these monies to the Treasurer of the Michigan Elks Association Major Project Commission earmarked for special needs (handicapped) children.

**Section 9.** None of the Charitable Commissions shall incur any debts or obligations of any kind or character, nor pledge the credit of the Association beyond the funds appropriated to the Commission.

**Section 10.** The Character, extent and type of any additional projects shall be determined by each respective Commission.

**Section 11.** Recipients of awards, benefits, grants or funds from the Major Project Commission and/or the Gold Key Scholarship Commission, must be sponsored by a member Lodge of the Michigan Elks Association and reside within its jurisdiction to qualify for assistance from these Charitable Commissions.

**Section 12.**

**(a)** The Trustees may appropriate, annually, such sum as may be reasonable for the administrative expense of the Major Project Commission for its annual Grand Lodge Display.

**(b)** The Trustees may appropriate, annually, such sum as may be reasonable for the administrative expense of the Charitable Grant Fund Commission for its annual Grand Lodge Display.

**Section 13.** Each of the Michigan Elks Association Charitable Commissions shall send an annual audit or financial report, as required in Article V, Section 5(a), above, to the Trustees of the Michigan Elks Association and the Past Grand Exalted Ruler Sponsor not later than four months after the close of each fiscal year of the Commission. Such report shall include a balance sheet as of the close of the fiscal year and a revenue and disbursement statement for the year ending on such closing date. Such financial statement shall be prepared from and in accordance with the books of each Commission, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a consistent basis.

**Section 14.** Each of the Michigan Elks Association Charitable Commissions may be incorporated as a

Michigan Non-Profit Corporation and may adopt such By Laws as are not inconsistent with the Constitution and Laws of the Order of the Grand Lodge and the structure and provisions of the By Laws of the Michigan Elks Association. Such by Laws and amendments thereto shall not become effective until approved by the Advisory Committee of the Michigan Elks Association.

## **ARTICLE VIII -- RELATIONS WITH THE GRAND LODGE**

**Section 1.** The Secretary of the Association shall furnish from time to time to the Grand Exalted Ruler, Past Grand Exalted Ruler Sponsor, Grand Secretary, and Chairman of the Lodge Activities/State Associations Committee of the Grand Lodge the following:

- (a). Copies of its By-Laws, Rules and Regulations and amendments thereto.
- (b). A copy of the proceedings of each Annual Meeting, including the report of its Treasurer.
- (c). All official circulars issued by or under its authority.
- (d). A list of the Lodges composing the Association.
- (e). A list of its Officers immediately following each Annual Meeting with the correct post office address of each officer.

**Section 2.** The Association shall strictly observe the provisions of the Constitution and Laws of the Order of the Grand Lodge relating to State Associations. No questions of a political or sectarian character shall be introduced at a meeting of the Association and no person shall directly or indirectly be endorsed for any public or Grand Lodge office. A resolution recommending action by Grand Lodge shall be filed with the Grand Exalted Ruler and the Grand Secretary and shall not be given publicity until it has been submitted to and approved by the Grand Lodge, and then only in accordance with the laws of the Order.

## **ARTICLE IX -- ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**Section 1.** The order of business at all meetings of the Association, unless otherwise directed by a majority of delegates, or by the Convention Committee as circumstances require, shall be as follows

- Call to Order
- Invocation
- Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
- Introduction of Grand Exalted Ruler and other Dignitaries
- Welcome by Convention Committee
- Roll Call of Officers
- Minutes of the Last Meeting
- Communications
- Reports of Officers
- Preliminary Report of Registration Committee
- Reports of Standing Committees
- Unfinished Business
- New Business
- Good of the Order
- Election of Officers
- Final Report of Registration Committee
- Installation of Officers (Annual Meeting only)
- Benediction
- Closing
- Adjournment

**Section 2.** All parliamentary practice in conducting the business of the State Association, not herein specially provided for, shall follow the Manual of "Roberts Rules of Order".

## **ARTICLE X --DISTRICTS OF THE ASSOCIATION**

**Section 1 – Name.** The Lodges of the six Districts in the State of Michigan shall organize District Associations composed of the Lodges of the respective Districts and each shall be identified and called by the name assigned to the District by Grand Lodge. Each District shall observe the provisions hereinafter stated.

**Section 2 – Membership.**

- (a) Every Lodge in the Michigan Elks Association shall be a member of the District in which such Lodge is located, and shall be entitled to rights and privilege afforded to member lodges, provided that such lodge is in good standing with Grand Lodge and the Association.
- (b) Each Member Lodge shall be entitled to representation at all meetings of the District, whether regular or special, by its Exalted Ruler, Esteemed Leading Knight, Secretary, and the Chairman of the Board of Directors (or Chairman of the Board of Trustees if the member Lodge does not have a Board of Directors), who shall be voting members.
- (c) Each Member Lodge shall be entitled to one additional voting member delegate for each 200 members or major fraction thereof, as shown by its last annual report to the Grand Lodge. The Exalted Ruler with approval of the Lodge shall appoint the additional representatives.
- (d) Each voting member delegate shall be entitled to participate in and vote on all matters coming before the meeting of the District. There will be no voting by proxy.
- (e) All Past Exalted Rulers of Member Lodges who do not come within the provisions of Article X, Section 2(c), of these By-Laws, and all alternate delegates not serving in the place of delegates, shall be entitled to all privileges of delegates, except the right to vote.
- (f) Twelve (12) duly accredited voting members, representing not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the Member Lodges in the District, shall constitute a quorum.

**Section 3 - Revenue**

- (a) Each Member Lodge in the District shall pay District Dues annually for each member on the rolls as of April 1st preceding the Spring meeting as reported to the Grand Lodge on its Annual Report. The amount of the dues shall be determined by the District By-Laws.
- (b) The District Secretary, Secretary/Treasurer or District Vice-Chairman shall issue such annual billing to each member lodge no later than April 30th of each year.
- (c) Payment of the Annual Dues shall be made by each Member Lodge to the District Vice-Chairman no later than June 30th of each year.
- (d) All District monies shall be maintained in a separate bank account with access by two of three signatures designated by the District at a regular District meeting.

**Section 4 – Meetings**

- (a) The District shall hold at least two (2) meetings annually – Fall (during the months of September or October) and Spring (during the months of March or April). All meetings shall be conducted as prescribed in the By-Laws of the Michigan Elks Association. Any district may hold an additional Winter meeting in the month of January, as determined by the District By-Laws.
- (a1) The Fall and Spring District meetings shall be scheduled to coincide with District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Clinics and the Exalted Ruler, Esteemed Leading Knight, Lodge Secretary, and Chairman of the Board of Directors (or Chairman of the Board of Trustees if the lodge does not have a Board of Directors) of each Member Lodge shall attend all District Deputy Clinics unless excused for good cause by the District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler.
- (a2) District Meetings will begin at such times, dates and locations as set forth in the District By-Laws, or as determined by a majority of the delegates at a previous meeting.

- (b) All parliamentary practice in conducting the business, not otherwise herein specifically provided for, shall follow Robert's Rules of Order Revised.
- (c) The order of Business at all meetings, unless otherwise directed by a majority of delegates, shall be as follows.

Rules and Order of Business

1. Call to Order
  2. Invocation
  3. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
  4. Introduction of Dignitaries and Guests
  5. Host Lodge welcome
  6. Roll Call of Officers
  7. Lodge of Sorrow – (Fall Meeting)
  8. Minutes of Previous meeting
  9. Reports of Committees
  10. District Vice Presidents Report
  11. Unfinished Business
  12. New Business
    - (i) Approval of candidate for District Vice President for Election at Annual Meeting of Michigan Elks Association. (Fall or Winter Meeting)
    - (ii) Approval of candidate for District Vice Chairperson for election at Annual Meeting of Michigan Elks Association (Fall or Winter Meeting)
  13. DDGER Clinic (Fall and Spring meeting)
  14. Good of the Order
    - (i) Fall Meeting – recommendation to PSP's for DDGER Designate.
  15. Treasurer's Report
  16. Auditor's Report (Fall meeting – immediate past D.V.P.)
  17. Benediction
  18. Closing and Adjournment
- (d) The Host Lodge of each District Meeting shall be determined by simple rotation of the member lodges of the district in an order to be determined by a vote of the member delegates at a previous meeting of the district.
  - (e) Should a Lodge be unable or unwilling to act as a host, they may pass their turn, or trade dates with another Lodge within their rotation schedule. Confirmation of Host Lodges for the following year shall be -----
  - (f) Special meetings of the District may be called by the District Vice-President upon not less than twenty-eight (28) days' notice in writing to member lodges. The District Vice-President, or the District Vice-Chairman in the absence or disability of the District Vice-President, shall call a special meeting when petitioned in writing to do so by a majority of the member lodges.

**Section 5 – Officers**

- (a) The officers serving the Districts shall consist of a District Vice-President and a District Vice-Chairman, plus such additional officers as may be established as provided below.
  - (a1) By majority vote, the District shall select a candidate for the office of District Vice-President. Such nominee selected shall be presented at the Annual meeting of the Michigan Elks Association under the business of "Election of Officers" as the candidate for Vice-President of the District. Election of District Vice-President shall be held in accordance with the Constitution of the Michigan Elks Association.
  - (a2) By majority vote, the District shall select a candidate for the office of District Vice-Chairman. Such nominee selected shall be presented at the Annual meeting of the Michigan Elks Association under the

business of "Election of Officers" as the candidate for Vice-Chairman of the District. Election of District Vice-Chairman shall be held in accordance with the Constitution of the Michigan Elks Association.

- (b). By majority vote, the District may select a Treasurer, a Secretary, and/or a Secretary-Treasurer.
- (c). A District Esquire shall be recommended annually by the District for appointment by the State Sponsor to accompany and assist the District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler during his/her regular lodge visitations and other duties. Preference for the position of District Esquire should be given to the immediate Past District Vice President or to a member who would be qualified to be appointed as District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler.

The District Deputy with concurrence of the District should also select a person with experience and knowledge regarding Lodge finances or similar financial matters to act as the District Auditor to accompany and assist him on lodge visitations and other duties.

## **Section 6 – Duties**

- (a) The District Vice-President shall be responsible to the president of the Michigan Elks Association and shall serve as a liaison between the District Lodges and the State Association in furthering the State Association's programs.
  - (a1) The District Vice-President shall serve as chairman of the District. He/she shall carry out the program decided upon by a majority vote at a regular meeting of the District.
  - (a2) The District Vice-President shall appoint such committees as are deemed necessary to arrange for and conduct the District meetings and shall appoint the member to each of the Standing Committees of the Michigan Elks Association, as shown in Article 6, Section 1(a), above.
- (b) The District Vice-Chairman shall preside at the District meetings in the absence of the District Vice-President.
  - (b1) The District Vice-Chairman or District Secretary shall be responsible for the keeping of minutes of all meetings and shall send a report of all meetings to the President, First and Second Vice-Presidents of the Michigan Elks Association, the State Sponsor and the Michigan Special Representative or Special Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler.
  - (b2) The District Vice-Chairman or District Secretary shall assist the District Vice-President in the preparation and distribution of the official Directory of the District
- (c) The Treasurer, or Secretary/Treasurer, if so elected, shall have custody of all funds belonging to the District. Otherwise, the District Vice-Chairman shall have custody of all the funds belonging to the District. The custodian shall keep accurate records of all receipts and expenditures and report on the same at each meeting.
- (d) All District funds shall be maintained in an independent bank account with access by one of two signatures, the District Vice-President and/or District Vice-Chairman. One of three Signatures should a District Treasurer is be elected.
- (e) The District Vice-Chairman or District treasurer shall transfer all records and funds to their successors no later than the Spring meeting of the District that concludes their term of office.
- (f) A financial review of the District funds shall be conducted each spring by the outgoing District Vice-President, or such person appointed by him. A report of such audit financial review shall be given at the fall meeting.

## **Section 7 – Expenditures**

- (a). The District Vice-President elect will present a budget for the District ~~at the~~ to the member lodges at least seven (7) days prior to the Annual Spring meeting for approval by the delegates.



- (b) Disbursement of funds by either the District Vice-Chairman or the Treasurer shall be made from vouchers signed by the District Vice-President or by order of the delegates at a regular or special meeting of the District.
- (c) For reimbursement of expenses incurred in the performance of his duties, including a visitation to each Lodge in the District during the term of his office, the District Vice-President shall receive a stipend in an amount determined by a majority of the delegates at a meeting of the District, payable upon submission of his report satisfactory to the State President.
- (d) For reimbursement of expenses incurred in the performance of his duties, including a visitation to each Lodge in the District during the term of his office, the District Vice-Chairman shall receive a stipend in an amount determined by a majority of the delegates at a meeting of the District, payable upon submission of his report satisfactory to the State President.
- (e) For reimbursement of expenses incurred in hosting the District Hoop-Shoot Contest, upon submission of receipts satisfactory to the District Vice-President, the Hosting Lodge shall be reimbursed in an amount determined by a majority of the delegates at a District meeting.
- (f) For reimbursement of expenses incurred in the performance of his duties during the term of his office, the District Secretary, Treasurer, or Secretary/Treasurer shall receive a stipend in an amount determined by the District By-Laws.

**Section 8 – Ritualistic Competitions.** Ritualistic Competitions within the Districts and the State shall be conducted pursuant to Article VI, Section 17.

**Section 9. By-Laws of the District**

- (a) Each District may authorize By-Laws for its District, provided the provisions do not exceed or reduce the provisions of the Michigan Elks Association By-Laws, and relate to meeting schedules (date, time and place), District Dues and expenditures, and discretionary officers of the Association, subject to approval by the State Law Committee.

## **ARTICLE XI - TELECONFERENCING**

Meetings within the Association and its Member Lodges, including State, District, Lodge and Lodge Boards of Directors and House Committee meetings, required visitations by Grand Lodge Officers, State and District Officers and Committee members and Commissions (Major Project and Charitable Grand), may be conducted by teleconferencing as circumstances require with the approval of the State Sponsor or his designated deputy. The costs of teleconferencing shall be charged to the Association as approved by the Board of State Trustees.

## ARTICLE XII--AMENDMENTS

Any Lodge in good standing with the Association, the State Trustees, or the Advisory Committee has the right to propose an Amendment to the By-Laws. The proposal shall be sent to the State Secretary and the Chairman of the Law Committee at least twenty-eight (28) days before the Annual or Fall Session of the Association. The State Secretary shall forward a true copy of every proposed amendment to the By-Laws, to each Lodge on or before twenty-eight (28) days before the Annual or Fall Session of the Association. Each Lodge shall, at its first regular meeting after receiving the proposed amendments, vote upon the same. A majority vote of Members present and voting at the regular Lodge meeting shall determine whether the Lodge approves or rejects the proposed amendment. The Lodge delegation to the convention shall vote the wishes of their Lodge. The By-Law Committee shall present the proposal with its recommendation. It shall require a two-thirds affirmative vote of the delegates present to adopt any amendment. Such amendments shall not become effective until approved by the Grand Lodge Committee on Judiciary.

5/17/2008 Approved Amendments  
10/18/2008 Approved Amendments  
9/12/2011 Approved Amendments  
10/22/2011 Approved Amendments  
10/20/2012 Approved Amendments  
10/20/2012 Approved Amendments  
11/29/2012 Approved Amendments  
6/21/2013 Approved Amendments  
6/24/2016 Approved Amendments  
5/19/2018 Approved Recodification  
10/17//2020 Approved Amendments