

**BY-LAWS OF THE  
SOUTHEASTERN INDIANA  
BOARD OF REALTORS®, INC.**

Accepted by SEIBR Directors NAR/SEIBR 08/10; 04/13, 4/14; SEIBR 06/13 NAR 08/2013,  
10/13, 4/14, 12/2015; NAR Approved June 9, 2016

**ARTICLE 1 – NAME**

Section 1. Name. The name of this organization shall be the SOUTHEASTERN INDIANA BOARD of REALTORS®, Incorporated, hereafter referred to as the "Board".

Section 2. REALTOR®. Inclusion and retention of the term, "REALTOR®" in the name of the Board shall be governed by the Constitution and By-Laws of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® as from time to time amended.

**ARTICLE II - OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the Board are:

Section 1. To unite those engaged in the recognized branches of the real estate profession in this community for the purpose of exerting a beneficial influence upon the profession and related interests.

Section 2. To promote and maintain high standards of conduct in the real estate profession as expressed in the code of Ethics of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®.

Section 3. To provide a unified medium for real estate owners and those engaged in the real estate profession whereby their interests may be safeguarded and advanced.

Section 4. To further the interest of home and other real property ownership.

Section 5. To unite those engaged in the real estate profession in this community with the INDIANA ASSOCIATION of REALTOR® and the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, thereby furthering their own objectives throughout the state and nation, and obtaining the benefits and privileges of membership therein.

Section 6. To designate, for the benefit of the public, individuals authorized to use the term REALTOR® and REALTOR-ASSOCIATE® as licensed, prescribed and controlled by the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®.

**ARTICLE III - JURISDICTION**

Section 1. The territorial jurisdiction of the Board as a member of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® shall include Dearborn, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley and Switzerland counties in Indiana.

Section 2. Territorial Jurisdiction is defined to mean:

(a) The right and duty to control the use of terms REALTOR®, and REALTORS®, subject to the conditions set forth in these By-Laws and those of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, in return for which the Board agrees to protect and safeguard the property right of the National Association in these terms.

## ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. There shall be six classes of Members as follows:

(a) REALTOR® Members. REALTOR® Members, whether primary or secondary shall be:

(1) Individuals who, as sole proprietors, partners, or corporate officers or branch managers are engaged actively in the real estate profession, including buying, selling, exchanging, renting or leasing, managing, appraising for others for compensation, counseling building, developing or subdividing real estate, and who maintain or are associated with an established real estate office located within the state of Indiana or a state contiguous thereto. All persons who are partners in a partnership, or all officers in a corporation who are actively engaged in the real estate profession within the state or a state contiguous thereto shall qualify for REALTOR® Membership only, and each is required to hold REALTOR® Membership (except as provided in the following paragraph) in a Board of REALTORS® within the state or a state contiguous thereto unless otherwise qualified for Institute Affiliate Membership as described in Section 1 (b) of Article IV. (\*)

1.b In the case of a real estate firm, partnership, or corporation, whose business activity is substantially all commercial, only those principals actively engaged in the real estate business in connection with the same office, or any other offices within the jurisdiction of the board in which one of the firm's principals holds REALTOR® membership, shall be required to hold REALTOR® membership unless otherwise qualified for Institute Affiliate Membership as described in Section 1 (b) of Article IV. (Amended 1/01)

NOTE: REALTOR® Members may obtain membership in a "secondary" Board in another state.

(2) Individuals who are engaged in the real estate profession other than as sole proprietors, partners, corporate officers, or branch office managers and are associated with a REALTOR® Member and meet the qualifications set out in Article V.

(3) Corporate officers (who may be licensed or unlicensed) of a real estate brokerage franchise organization with at least one hundred fifty (150) franchisees located within the United States, its insular possessions and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, elected to membership pursuant to the provisions in the NAR Constitution and Bylaws. Such individuals shall enjoy all of the rights, privileges and obligations of REALTOR® membership (including compliance with the Code of Ethics) EXCEPT: obligations related to Board mandated education, meeting attendance, or indoctrination classes or other similar requirements; the right to use the term REALTOR in connection with their franchise organization's name; the right to hold elective office in the local Board, State Association and National Association.

(4) Primary and secondary REALTOR® Members. An individual is a primary member if the Board pays state and National dues based on such Member. An individual is a secondary Member if state and National dues are remitted through another Board. One of the principals in a real estate firm must be a Designated REALTOR® member of the Board in order for licensees affiliated with the firm to select the Board as their "primary" Board.

(5) Designated REALTOR® Members. Each firm (or office in the case of firms with multiple office locations) shall designate in writing one REALTOR® Member shall be responsible for all duties and obligations of Membership including the obligation to arbitrate pursuant to Article 17 of the Code of Ethics and the payment of Board dues as established in Article X of the Bylaws. The "Designated REALTOR®" must be a sole proprietor, partner, corporate officer or branch office manager acting on behalf of the firm's principal(s) and must meet all other qualifications for REALTOR® Membership established in Article V, Section 2, of the Bylaws.

(b) Institute Affiliate Members. Institute Affiliate Members shall be individuals who hold a professional designation awarded by an Institute, Society, or Council affiliated with the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® that addresses a specialty area other than residential brokerage or individuals who otherwise hold a class of membership in such Institute, Society or Council that confers the right to hold office. Any such individual, if otherwise eligible, may elect to hold REALTOR® membership, subject to payment of applicable dues for such membership.

(c) Affiliate Members. Affiliate Members shall be real estate owners and other individuals or firms who, while not engaged in the real estate profession as defined in paragraph (a) of this Section, have interests requiring information concerning real estate, and are in sympathy with the objects of the Board.

(d) Public Service Members. Public Service Members shall be individuals who are interested in the real estate profession as employees of educational, public utility, governmental or other similar organizations, but are not engaged in the real estate profession on their own account or in association with an established real estate business.

(e) Honorary Members. Honorary Members shall be individuals not engaged in the real estate profession who have performed notable service for the real estate profession, for the Board, or for the public.

(f) Student Members. Student Members shall be individuals who are seeking an undergraduate or graduate degree with a specialization or major in real estate at institutions of higher learning and who have completed at least two years of college and at least one college level course in real estate, but are not engaged in real estate practice on their own account or not associated with an established real estate office.

## ARTICLE V QUALIFICATION AND ELECTION

### Section 1. Application.

(a) An Application for membership shall be made in such manner and form as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors and made available to anyone requesting it. The application form shall contain among the statements to be signed by the applicant (1) that applicant agrees as a condition to membership to thoroughly familiarize himself with the Code of Ethics of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Rules and Regulations of the Board, the State and National Associations, and if elected a Member, will abide by the Constitutions and Bylaws and Rules and Regulations of the Board, State and National Associations, and if a REALTOR will abide by the Code of Ethics of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, including the obligation to arbitrate controversies arising out of real estate transactions as specified by Article 17 of the Code of Ethics, and as further specified in the Code of Ethics and Arbitration Manual of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® as from time to time amended, and (2) that applicant consents that the Board, through its Membership Committee or otherwise, may invite and receive information and comment about applicant from any Member or other persons, and that applicant agrees that any information and comment furnished to the Board by any person in response to the invitation shall be conclusively deemed to be privileged and not form the basis of any action for slander, libel, or defamation of character. The applicant shall, with the form of application, have access to a copy of the Bylaws, Constitution, Rules and Regulations, and Code of Ethics referred to above.

### Section 2. Qualification (OPTION #1)

(a) An applicant for REALTOR® Membership who is a sole proprietor, partner, corporate officer, or branch office manager of a real estate firm shall supply evidence satisfactory to the Membership Committee that he is actively engaged in the real estate profession, and maintains a current, valid real estate broker's or salesperson's

license or is licensed or certified by an appropriate state regulatory agency to engage in the appraisal of real property, has a place of business within the state or a state contiguous thereto (unless a secondary member), has no record of recent or pending bankruptcy, has no record of official sanctions involving unprofessional conduct, agrees to complete a course of instruction covering the Bylaws and Rules and Regulations of the Board, the Bylaws of the State Association, and the Constitution and Bylaws and Code of Ethics of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, and shall pass such reasonable and nondiscriminatory written examination thereon as may be required by the Committee, and shall agree that if elected to membership, he will abide by such Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, and Code of Ethics.

NOTE 2: Article IV, Section 2 of the NAR Bylaws prohibits Member Boards from knowingly granting REALTOR® or REALTOR-ASSOCIATE® membership to any applicant who has an unfulfilled sanction pending which was imposed by another Board or Association of REALTOR® for violation of the Code of Ethics. (Adopted 1/01)

(b) Individuals who are actively engaged in the real estate profession other than as sole proprietors, partners, corporate officers, or branch office managers in order to qualify for REALTOR® Membership, shall at the time of application be associated either as an employee or as an independent contractor with an Designated REALTOR® Member of the board or a Designated REALTOR® member of another board (if a secondary member) and must maintain a current, valid real estate broker's or salesperson's license or be licensed or certified by an appropriate state regulatory agency to engage in the appraisal of real property, shall complete a course of instruction covering the Bylaws and Rules and Regulations of the Board, the Bylaws of the State Association, and the Constitution and Bylaws and Code of Ethics of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® and shall pass such reasonable and nondiscriminatory written examinations thereon as may be required by the Membership Committee and shall agree in writing that if elected to membership he will abide by such Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, and the Code of Ethics.

(c) An applicant for REALTOR® Membership, after completing a Board Orientation course will, upon approval by the Board of Directors, receive all services and benefits of membership. The Board/Association will also consider the following in determining an applicant's qualifications for REALTOR® membership:

1. All final findings of Code of Ethics violations and violations of other membership duties in any other association within the past three (3) years
2. Pending ethics complaints (or hearings)
3. Unsatisfied discipline pending
4. Pending arbitration requests (or hearings)
5. Unpaid arbitration awards or unpaid financial obligations to any other association or association MLS
6. Any misuse of the term REALTOR or REALTORS in the name of the applicant's firm.  
(Amended 06/2006)

“Provisional” membership may be granted in instances where ethics complaints or arbitration requests (or hearings) are pending in other associations or where the applicant for membership has unsatisfied discipline pending in another association (except for violations of the Code of Ethics; See Article V, Section 2 (a) NOTE 2) provided all other qualifications for membership have been satisfied). Associations may reconsider the membership status of such individuals when all pending ethics and arbitration matters (and related discipline) have been resolved or if such matters are not resolved within six months from the date that provisional membership is approved. Provisional members shall be considered REALTOR® and shall be subject to all of the same privileges and obligations of REALTOR® membership. If a member resigns from another association with an ethics complaint or arbitration request pending, the association may condition membership on the applicant's certification that he/she will submit to the pending ethics or arbitration proceeding (in accordance with the established procedures of the association to which the applicant has made application) and will abide by the decision of the hearing panel.  
(Amended 1/01)

Section 3. Election. The procedure for election to membership shall be as follows:

(a) The Membership Committee shall determine whether the applicant is applying for the appropriate class of membership. It shall then give written notice to the REALTOR® Members of such application and invite written comment. If one or more of the REALTOR® Members object to the approval of the application, basing such objection on lack of qualification as set forth in these Bylaws, the Committee shall invite any objecting Member to appear and substantiate his objections. Objections which are not substantiated shall be totally disregarded. The Committee may not find objections substantiated without (1) informing the applicant in advance, in writing, of the objections and identifying the objecting Member, and (2) giving the applicant a full opportunity to appear before the Committee and establish his qualifications. The Committee shall thereafter make a written report of its findings. The Membership Committee shall conduct all proceedings with strict attention to the principles of due process and compliance with the Bylaws of the Board.

(b) Thereafter, within 30 days, the Membership Committee shall report its recommendation to the Board of Directors in writing. If the recommendation is adverse to the approval of the application, the reasons shall be specifically stated. If any member of the Membership Committee submits a dissenting recommendation, it shall also be reported to the Board of Directors.

(c) The Board of Directors may not reject an application without providing the applicant with advance notice of the findings and recommendations of the Membership Committee, an opportunity to appear before the Board of Directors, to call witnesses on his behalf, to be represented by counsel, and to make such statements as he deems relevant. The Board of Directors may also have counsel present. The Board of Directors shall require that written minutes be made of any hearing before it may electronically or mechanically record the proceedings.

(d) If the Board of Directors determines that the application should be rejected, it shall record its reasons with the Secretary. If the Board of Directors believes that denial of membership to the applicant may become the basis of litigation and a claim of damage by the applicant, it may specify that denial shall become effective upon entry in a suit by the Board for a declaratory judgment by a court of competent jurisdiction of a final judgment declaring that the rejection violates no rights of the applicant.

Section 4. Status Changes.

a. A REALTOR® who changes the conditions under which he holds membership shall be required to provide written notification to the Board within 10 days. A REALTOR® (non-principal) who becomes a principal in the firm with which he has been licensed or, alternatively, becomes a principal in a new firm which will be comprised of REALTOR® principals may be required to satisfy any previously unsatisfied membership requirements applicable to REALTOR® (principal) Members but shall, during the period of transition from one status of membership to another, be subject to all of the privileges and obligations of a REALTOR® (principal). If the REALTOR® (non-principal) does not satisfy the requirements established in these Bylaws for the category of membership to which they have transferred within 10 days of the date they advised the Board of their change in status, their new membership application will terminate automatically unless otherwise so directed by the Board of Directors. (The Board of Directors, at its discretion, may waive any qualification which the applicant has already fulfilled in accordance with the Board's Bylaws.)

(b) Any application fee related to a change in membership status shall be reduced by an amount equal to any application fee previously paid by the applicant.

(c) Dues shall be prorated from the first day of the month in which the member is notified of election by the Board of Directors and shall be based on the new membership status for the remainder of the year.

(d) New Member Code of Ethics Orientation

Applicants for REALTOR® membership and provisional REALTOR® members (where applicable) shall complete an orientation program on the Code of Ethics of not less than two hours and thirty minutes of instructional time. This requirement does not apply to applicants for REALTOR® membership or provisional members who have completed comparable orientation in another association, provided that REALTOR® membership has been continuous, or that any break in membership is for one year or less.

Failure to satisfy this requirement within 90 days of the date of application (or, alternative, the date that provisional membership was granted), will result in denial of the membership application or termination of provisional membership.

NOTE: Orientation programs must meet the learning objectives and minimum criteria established from time to time by the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®.

(Adopted 1/01)

Continuing Member Code of Ethics Training:

Effective January 1, 2001, through December 31, 2004, and for successive four year periods thereafter, each REALTOR® member of the association shall be required to complete quadrennial ethics training of not less than two hours and thirty minutes of instructional time. This requirement will be satisfied upon presentation of documentation that the member has completed a course of instruction conducted by this or another association, the State Association of REALTOR®, the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, or any other recognized educational institution or provider which meets the learning objectives and minimum criteria established by the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® from time to time. REALTOR® members who have completed training as a requirement of membership in another association and REALTOR® members who have completed the New Member Code of Ethics Orientation during any four year cycle shall not be required to complete additional ethics training until a new four year cycle commences.

Failure to satisfy this requirement shall be considered a violation of a membership duty for which REALTOR® membership shall be suspended until such time as the training is completed. (Adopted 1/01)

Members suspended for failing to meet the requirement for the first four (4)-year cycle (2001-2004) will have until December 2005 to meet the requirement. Failure to meet the requirement by that time will result in automatic termination of membership. Failure to meet the requirement for the second (2005 through 2008) cycle and subsequent four (4)-year cycles will result in suspension of membership for the first two months (January and February) of the year following the end of any four (4)-year cycle or until the requirement is met, whichever occurs sooner. On March 1 of that year, the membership of a member who is still suspended as of that date will be automatically terminated. (Adopted 1/01, revised 5/05)

## ARTICLE VI - PRIVILEGES AND OBLIGATIONS

Section 1. The privileges and obligations of members, in addition to those otherwise provided in these By-laws, shall be as specified in this Article.

Section 2. Any Member of the Board may be reprimanded, fined, placed on probation, suspended, or expelled by the Board of Directors for a violation of these Bylaws and Board Rules and Regulations not inconsistent with these Bylaws, after a hearing as provided in the Code of Ethics and Arbitration Manual of the Board. Although Members other than REALTOR® are not subject to the Code of Ethics nor its enforcement by the Board, such Members are encouraged to abide by the principles established in business and professional practices accordingly. Further, Members other than REALTOR® may, upon recommendation of the Membership Committee, or upon recommendation by a hearing panel of the Professional Standards Committee, be subject to discipline as described

above, for any conduct, which in the opinion of the Board of Directors, applied on a nondiscriminatory basis, reflects adversely on the terms REALTOR® or REALTORS®, and the real estate industry, or for conduct that is inconsistent with or adverse to the objectives and purposes of the local Board, the State Association, and the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®.

Section 3. Any REALTOR® Member of the Board may be disciplined by the Board of Directors for violations of the Code of Ethics or other duties of membership, after a hearing as described in the Code of Ethics and Arbitration Manual of the Board, provided that the discipline imposed is consistent with the discipline authorized by the Professional Standards Committee of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® as set forth in the Code of Ethics and Arbitration Manual of the National Association.

Section 4. Resignations of Members shall become effective when received in writing by the Board of Directors, provided, however, that if any Member submitting the resignation is indebted to the Board for dues, fees, fines, or other assessments of the Board or any of its services, departments, divisions, or subsidiaries, the Board may condition the right of the resigning Member to reapply for membership upon payment in full of all such monies owed.

Section 5. If a Member resigns from the Board or otherwise causes membership to terminate with an ethics complaint pending, that Board of Directors may condition the right of the resigning Member to reapply for membership upon the applicant's certification that he/she will submit to the pending ethics proceeding and will abide by the decision of the hearing panel.

(a) If a Member resigns or otherwise causes membership to terminate, the duty to submit to arbitration continues in effect even after membership lapses or is terminated provided that the dispute arose while the former member was a REALTOR®.

#### Section 6. REALTOR® Members.

REALTOR® Members, whether primary or secondary, in good standing whose financial obligations to the Board are paid in full shall be entitled to vote and to hold elective office in the Board; may use the terms REALTOR® and REALTORS®, which use shall be subject to the provisions of Article VIII; and have primary responsibility to safeguard and promote the standards, interests, and welfare of the Board and the real estate profession.

If a REALTOR® Member is a sole proprietor in a firm, a partner in a partnership or an officer in a corporation, and is suspended or expelled, the firm, partnership, or corporation shall not use the terms REALTOR® or REALTORS® in connection with its business during the period of suspension, or until readmission to REALTOR® Membership, or unless connection with the firm, partnership, or corporation is severed, or management control is relinquished, whichever may apply. The membership of all other principals, partners, or corporate officers shall suspend or terminate during the period of suspension of the disciplined Member, or until readmission of the disciplined Member, or unless connection of the disciplined Member with the firm, partnership, or corporation is severed, or unless the REALTOR® who is suspended or expelled removes himself from any form or degree of management control of the firm for the term of the suspension or until readmission to membership, whichever may apply. Removal of an individual from any form or degree of management control must be certified to the Board by the Member who is being suspended or expelled and by the individual who is assuming management control, and the signatures of such certification must be notarized. In the event the suspended or expelled Member is so certified to have relinquished all form or degree of management control of the firm, the membership of other partners, corporate officers, or other individuals affiliated with the firm shall not be affected, and the firm, partnership or corporation may continue to use the terms REALTOR® and REALTORS® in connection with its business during the period of suspension or until the former member is admitted to membership in the Board. The foregoing is not intended to preclude a suspended or expelled Member from functioning as an employee or independent contractor, providing no management control is exercised. Further, the membership of REALTOR® other than principals who are employed

or affiliated as independent contractors with the disciplined Member shall suspend or terminate during the period of suspension of the disciplined Member or until readmission of the disciplined Member, or unless connection of the disciplined Member with the firm, partnership, or corporation is severed, or management control is relinquished, or unless the REALTOR® Member (non-principal) elects to sever his connection with the REALTOR® and affiliate with another REALTOR® Member in good standing in the Board, whichever may apply.

(a) If a REALTOR® Member other than a sole proprietor in a firm, partner in a partnership, or an officer of a corporation is suspended or expelled, the use of the terms REALTOR® or REALTORS® by the firms, partnership or corporation shall not be affected.

(b) In any action taken against a REALTOR® Member for suspension or expulsion under Section 6 (d) hereof, notice of such action shall be given to all REALTOR® employed by or affiliated as independent contractors with such REALTOR® Member and they shall be advised that the provisions in Article VI, Section 6 (d) shall apply.

Section 7. Institute Affiliate Members. Institute Affiliate Members shall have rights and privileges and be subject to obligations prescribed by the Board of Directors consistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®.

NOTE: Local associations establish the rights and privileges to be conferred on Institute Affiliate Members except that no Institute Affiliate Member may be granted the right to use the term REALTOR®, REALTOR-ASSOCIATE®, or the REALTOR® logo; to serve as President of the local association; or to be a participant in the local association's Multiple Listing Service.

Section 8. Affiliate Members. Affiliate Members shall have rights and privileges and be subject to obligations prescribed by the Board of Directors.

Section 9. Public Service Members. Public Service Members shall have rights and privileges and be subject to obligations prescribed by the Board of Directors.

Section 10. Honorary Members. Honorary Membership shall confer only the right to attend meetings and participate in discussions.

Section 11. Student Members. Student Members shall have rights and privileges and be subject to obligations prescribed by the Board of Directors.

Section 12. Certification by REALTOR®. "Designated" REALTOR® Members of the Board shall certify to the Board during the month of January, on a form provided by the Board, a complete listing of all individuals licensed or certified in the REALTOR's® office (s) and shall designate a primary Board for each individual who holds membership. Designated REALTOR® shall also identify any non-member licensees in the REALTOR's® office (s) and if Designated REALTOR® Dues have been paid to another Board based on said non-member licensees, the Designated REALTOR® shall identify the Board to which dues have been remitted. These declarations shall be used for purposes of calculating dues under Article X, Section 2(a) of the Bylaws. "Designated REALTOR® Members shall also notify the Board of any additional individual(s) licensed or certified with the firm (s) within 30 days of the date of affiliation or severance of the individual.

## ARTICLE VII - PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND ARBITRATION

Section 1. The responsibility of the association and of association members relating to the enforcement of the Code of Ethics, the disciplining of members, and the arbitration of disputes, and the organization and procedures incident thereto shall be governed by the Code of Ethics and Arbitration Manual of National Association of REALTORS® as amended from time to time, which by this reference is incorporated into these bylaws, provided



however, that any provision deemed inconsistent with state law shall be deleted or amended to comply with state law. By agreement with the Indiana Association of REALTORS®, the Southeastern Indiana Board of REALTORS® will refer all professional standards matters, including requests for ethics, arbitration, and mediation, to the Indiana Association of REALTORS® for handling and disposition.

Section 2. It shall be the duty and responsibility of every REALTOR® Member of this Board to abide by the Constitution and Bylaws and the Rules and Regulations of the Board, the Constitution and Bylaws of the State Association, the Constitution and Bylaws of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, and to abide by the Code of Ethics of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, including the duty to arbitrate controversies arising out of real estate transactions as specified by Article 17 of the Code of Ethics, and as further defined and in accordance with the procedures set forth in the Code of Ethics and Arbitration Manual of this Board as from time to time amended.

## ARTICLE VIII - USE OF THE TERM REALTOR® AND REALTORS®

Section 1. Use of the term REALTOR® OR REALTOR® by members shall, at all times, be subject to the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® and to the Rules and Regulations prescribed by its Board of Directors. The Board shall have the authority to control, jointly and in full cooperation with the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, use of the terms within its jurisdiction. Any misuse of the terms by members is a violation of a membership duty and may subject members to disciplinary action by the Board of Directors after a hearing as provided for in the association's Code of Ethics and Arbitration Manual. (Amended 06/2006)

Section 2. REALTOR® Members of the Board shall have the privilege of using the term REALTOR or REALTOR® in connection with their places of practice within the state or a state contiguous thereto so long as they remain REALTOR® Members in good standing. No other class of member shall have this privilege.

Section 3. A REALTOR® Member who is a principal of a real estate firm, partnership, or corporation may use the terms REALTOR® and REALTOR® only if all the principals of such firm, partnership, or corporation who are actively engaged in the real estate profession within the state or a state contiguous thereto are REALTOR® Members of the Board or Institute Affiliate Members as described in Section 1 (b) of Article IV.

(a) In the case of a REALTOR® member who is a principal of a real estate firm, partnership, or corporation whose business activity is substantially all commercial, the right to use the term REALTOR® or REALTOR® shall be limited to office locations in which a principal, partner, corporate officer, or branch office manager of the firm, partnership, or corporation holds REALTOR® membership. If a firm, partnership, or corporation operates additional places of business in which no principal, partner, corporate officer, or branch office manager holds REALTOR® membership, the term REALTOR® or REALTOR® may not be used in any reference to those additional places of business. (Amended 1/01)

Section 4. Institute Affiliate Members shall not use the terms REALTOR® or REALTOR®, nor the imprint of the emblem seal of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®.

## ARTICLE IX - STATE AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Section 1. The Board shall be a Member of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® and of the INDIANA ASSOCIATION of REALTORS®. By virtue of such membership, each REALTOR® Member of the Member Board shall be entitled to membership in the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® and the INDIANA ASSOCIATION of REALTORS® without further payment of dues. The Board shall continue as a Member of the State and National Associations, unless by a majority vote of all its REALTOR® Members, decision

is made to withdraw, in which case the State and National Associations shall be notified at least one month in advance of the date designated for the termination of such membership.

Section 2. The Board recognizes the exclusive property right of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® in the terms of REALTOR® and REALTOR®. It shall forthwith discontinue use of the terms in any form in its name upon ceasing to be a member of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, or upon a determination by the Board of Directors of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION that it has violated the conditions imposed upon these terms.

Section 3. The Board hereby adopts the Code of Ethics of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® and agrees to enforce the Code among its REALTOR® Membership. The Board and all of its members agree to abide by the Constitution, By-Laws, Rules and Regulations, and policies of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION and the INDIANA ASSOCIATION of REALTORS® and all of its members shall subscribe to and comply therewith.

## **Article X, Section 2 Dues**

**Section 1. Application Fee.** The board of directors may adopt an application fee for REALTOR® membership in reasonable amount, not exceeding three (3) times the amount of the annual dues for REALTOR® membership, which shall be required to accompany each application for REALTOR® membership and which shall become the property of the association upon final approval of the application. (Amended 1/02)

**Section 2. Dues.** The annual dues of members shall be as follows.

(a) REALTOR® Members. The annual dues of each designated REALTOR® member shall be in such amount as established annually by the board of directors, plus an additional amount to be established annually by the board of directors times the number of real estate salespersons and licensed or certified appraisers who (1) are employed by or affiliated as independent contractors, or who are otherwise directly or indirectly licensed with such REALTOR® member, and (2) are not REALTOR® members of any association in the state or a state contiguous thereto or Institute Affiliate members of the association. In calculating the dues payable to the association by a designated REALTOR® member, non-member licensees as defined in (1) and (2) of this paragraph shall not be included in the computation of dues if the designated REALTOR® has paid dues based on said non-member licensees in another association in the state or a state contiguous thereto, provided the designated REALTOR® notifies the association in writing of the identity of the association to which dues have been remitted. In the case of a designated REALTOR® member in a firm, partnership, or corporation whose business activity is substantially all commercial, any assessments for non-member licensees shall be limited to licensees affiliated with the designated REALTOR® (as defined in (1) and (2) of this paragraph) in the office where the designated REALTOR® holds membership, and any other offices of the firm located within the jurisdiction of this association. (Amended 1/05)

(1) For the purpose of this section, a REALTOR® member of a Member Board shall be held to be any member who has a place or places of business within the state or a state contiguous thereto and who, as a principal, partner, corporate officer, or branch office manager of a real estate firm, partnership, or corporation, is actively engaged in the real estate profession as defined in Article III, Section 1 of the *Constitution of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®*. An individual shall be deemed to be licensed with a REALTOR® if the license of the individual is held by the REALTOR®, or by any broker who is licensed with the REALTOR®, or by any entity in which the REALTOR® has a direct or indirect ownership interest and which is engaged in other aspects of the real estate business (except as provided for in Section 2(a)(1) hereof) provided that such licensee is not otherwise included in the computation of dues payable by the principal, partner, corporate officer, or branch office manager of the entity.

A REALTOR® with a direct or indirect ownership interest in an entity engaged exclusively in soliciting

and/or referring clients and customers to the REALTOR® for consideration on a substantially exclusive basis shall annually file with the association on a form approved by the association a list of the licensees affiliated with that entity and shall certify that all of the licensees affiliated with the entity are solely engaged in referring clients and customers and are not engaged in listing, selling, leasing, renting, managing, counseling, or appraising real property. The individuals disclosed on such form shall not be deemed to be licensed with the REALTOR® filing the form for purposes of this section and shall not be included in calculating the annual dues of the designated REALTOR®.

The exemption for any licensee included on the certification form shall automatically be revoked upon the individual being engaged in real estate licensed activities (listing, selling, leasing, renting, managing, counseling, or appraising real property) other than referrals, and dues for the current fiscal year shall be payable. (Amended 11/09)

Membership dues shall be prorated for any licensee included on a certification form submitted to the association who during the same calendar year applies for REALTOR® or REALTOR-ASSOCIATE® membership in the association. However, membership dues shall not be prorated if the licensee held REALTOR® or REALTOR-ASSOCIATE® membership during the preceding calendar year. **(Amended 5/03)**

(b) REALTOR® Members. The annual dues of REALTOR® members other than the designated REALTOR® shall be as established annually by the board of directors. (Amended 1/05)

(c) Institute Affiliate Members. The annual dues of each Institute Affiliate member shall be as established in Article II of the *Bylaws of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®*.

**NOTE:** The Institutes, Societies, and Councils of the National Association shall be responsible for collecting and remitting dues to the National Association for Institute Affiliate members (\$125). The National Association shall credit \$35 to the account of a local association for each Institute Affiliate Member whose office address is within the assigned territorial jurisdiction of that association, provided, however, if the office location is also within the territorial jurisdiction of a Commercial Overlay Board (COB), the \$35 amount will be credited to the COB, unless the Institute Affiliate member directs that the dues be distributed to the other association. The National Association shall also credit \$35 to the account of state associations for each Institute Affiliate member whose office address is located within the territorial jurisdiction of the state association. Local and state associations may not establish any additional entrance, initiation fees or dues for Institute Affiliate members, but may provide service packages to which Institute Affiliate members may voluntarily subscribe. (Amended 11/2013)

(d) Affiliate Members. The annual dues of each Affiliate member shall be as established annually by the board of directors. (Amended 1/05)

(e) Public Service Members. The annual dues of each Public Service member shall be as established annually by the board of directors. (Amended 1/05)

(f) Honorary Members. Dues payable, if any, shall be at the discretion of the board of directors. (Amended 1/05)

(g) Student Members. Dues payable, if any, shall be at the discretion of the board of directors. (Amended 1/05)

**Section 3. Dues Payable.** Dues for all Members shall be payable annually in advance on the first day of October. Dues shall be computed from the first day of the month in which a Member is notified of election

and shall be prorated for the remainder of the year.

(a) In the event a sales licensee or licensed or certified appraiser who holds REALTOR membership is dropped for nonpayment of Board dues, and the individual remains with the designated REALTOR's® firm, the dues obligation of the "designated" REALTOR® (as set forth in Article X, Section 2 (a) will be increased to reflect the addition of a non-member licensee. Dues shall be calculated from the first day of the current fiscal year and are payable within 30 days of the notice of termination.

Section 4. Non-Payment of Financial Obligations. If dues, fees, fines, or other assessments including amounts owed to the Board or the Board's Multiple Listing Service are not paid within one month after the due date, the member is subject to suspension at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Two months after due date membership of the non-paying member shall automatically terminate unless within that time the amount is paid. However, no action shall be taken to suspend or expel a Member for nonpayment of disputed amounts until the accuracy of the amount owed has been confirmed by the Board of Directors. A former member who has had his membership terminated for nonpayment of dues, fees, fines, or other assessments duly levied in accordance with the provisions of these Bylaws or the provisions of other Rules and Regulations of the Board of any of its services, departments, divisions or subsidiaries may apply for reinstatement in a manner prescribed for new applicants for membership, after making payment in full of all accounts due as of the date of termination.

Section 5. Deposit. All moneys received by the Board for any purpose shall be deposited to the credit of the Board in a financial institution or institutions selected by resolution of the Board of Directors.

Section 6. Expenditures. The Board of Directors shall administer the finances of the Board but shall not incur an obligation in excess of \$1000.00 over the available cash on hand without authorization by vote of a majority of all of the REALTOR® Members eligible to vote.

Section 7. Notice of Dues, Fees, Fines, Assessments and Other Financial Obligations of Members.

All dues, fees, fines, assessments, or other financial obligations to the Board or Board Multiple Listing Service shall be noticed to the delinquent Board Member in writing setting forth the amount owed and due date.

## ARTICLE XI - OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Section 1. Officers. The elective officers of the Board shall be: a President, a President-Elect, and a Treasurer. They shall be elected for terms of one year. The Past President will be considered an Officer of the Board. The Association Executive shall serve as the Secretary of the Board with no voting rights.

Section 2. Duties of Officers. The duties of the officers shall be such as their titles, by general usage, would indicate and such as may be assigned to them by the Board of Directors. It shall be the particular duty of the Secretary to keep the records of the Board and to carry on all necessary correspondence with the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® and the INDIANA ASSOCIATION of REALTORS®.

Section 3. Board of Directors. The governing body of the Board shall be a Board of Directors consisting of the elective officers, and five REALTOR® Members of the Board of Directors shall be elected to serve for terms of two years, except that at organization, one-third of the elected Directors shall be elected for terms of one, two, and three years, respectively, or for lesser terms as may be necessary to complete the first fiscal year. Thereafter, as many Directors shall be elected each year as are required to fill vacancies. A Director who has served two consecutive terms on the SEIBR Directors Board shall remain off the Board for a period of one term. A Director would be permitted to serve two elected terms as a Director and continue on the Board if elected to an officer position.

Section 4. Election of Officers and Directors.

(a) Annual Election of Officers & Directors. The Annual Election of Officers will be held at the Fall General Membership Meeting to be held.

(b) Installation of Officers & Directors will take place at the December General Membership Meeting.

(c) At least two months before the annual election a Nominating Committee of three REALTOR® Members shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors. The Nominating Committee shall make every attempt to select two candidates for each office except President and two candidates for each place to be filled on the Board of Directors. Qualifications to serve as a Director of the board. The member must have one full year of membership prior to the election and served on at least one committee. To serve as an Officer of the board a member must have served at least one year as a Director and met all the requirements of that position. The Treasurer must have served one year on the Budget and Finance Committee. The Treasurer shall serve as the Budget and Finance Chairman. The report of the Nominating Committee shall be sent to each REALTOR® Member eligible to vote at least 3 weeks preceding the election, additional candidates for the offices to be filled may be placed in nomination by Petition by at least twenty per cent of the REALTOR® Members. The Petition shall be filed with the Secretary at least two weeks before the election. The Secretary shall send notice of such additional nominations to all REALTOR® Members eligible to vote before the election.

(d) The ballot shall contain the names of all candidates and the offices for which they are nominated. The Nominating Committee shall design and approve the ballot to be used in the Election.

The President, with the approval of the Board of Directors shall appoint an Election Committee of 3 REALTOR® Members to conduct the election. The election of Officers and Directors shall take place at an election meeting. The Election shall be by ballot by REALTOR® members of the Southeastern Indiana Board Of Realtors®, Inc. who are qualified to vote. A member may vote one time utilizing one the following options:

1. Should a meeting be called by the Board of Directors, the member may vote in person at that meeting, or
2. The member may vote in person at the board office up to ten days prior to the Election Meeting during regular office hours, or
3. The member may vote on line using the board designated website up to ten calendar days prior to the Election Meeting.

Any ballot incorrectly marked will not be considered for the positions incorrectly marked only.

Section 5. Vacancies. Vacancies among the Officers and the Board of Directors shall be filled by the Board of Directors for the remainder of the term, excluding the office of President Elect. If the office of President becomes vacant, then the President Elect fills the remaining term of President. The Office of President elect shall be filled by Special or Regular Election.

Section 6. Removal of Officers and Directors. In the event that an Officer or Director is deemed to be incapable of fulfilling the duties for which elected, but will not resign from office voluntarily, the Officer or Director may be removed from office under the following procedure:

- (a) A petition requiring the removal of an Officer or Director and signed by not less than one-third of the voting membership or a majority of all Directors shall be filed with the President, or if the President, is the subject of the petition, with the next-ranking officer, and shall specifically set forth the reasons the individual is deemed to be disqualified from further service.

(b) Upon receipt of the petition, and not less than twenty (20) days or more than forty-five (45) days thereafter, a special meeting of the voting membership of the Board shall be held, and the sole business of the meeting shall be to consider the charge against the Officer or Director, and to render a decision on such petition.

(c) The special meeting shall be noticed to all voting Members at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting, and shall be conducted by the President of the Board unless the President's continued service in office is being considered at the meeting. In such case, the next-ranking officer will conduct the meeting of the hearing by the Members. Provided a quorum is present, a three-fourths vote of Members present and voting shall be required for removal from office.

## ARTICLE XII - MEETINGS

Section 1. Annual Meetings. The annual meeting of the Board shall be held in the month of September.

Section 2. Installation Meeting. The December General Membership meeting shall be the Installation Meeting of Officers and Directors.

Section 3. Meetings of Directors. The Board of Directors shall designate a regular time and place of meetings. A member of the Board of Directors is obligated to attend all meetings. A member of the Board of Directors who is unable to attend a meeting is responsible for requesting an excused absence, subject to ratification by the Board of Directors. Failure of a member of the Board of Directors to attend three regular or special meetings without ratified excuse shall be construed as resignation from the Board of Directors.

Section 4. Other Meetings. Meetings of the Members may be held at such other times as the President or the Board of Directors may determine, or upon the written request of at least ten percent of the REALTOR® Members.

Section 5. Notice of Meetings. Written notice shall be given to every member entitled to participate in the meeting at least one week preceding all meetings. If a special meeting, it shall be accompanied by a statement of the purpose of the meeting.

Section 6. Quorum. A quorum for the transaction of business shall consist of 20% of the REALTOR members eligible to vote.

## ARTICLE XIII - COMMITTEES

Section 1. Standing Committees. The President shall appoint from among the REALTOR® Members, subject to confirmation by the Board of Directors, the following standing committees:

Professional Standards	Legislative	Public Relations
Membership Program	REALTOR® Protection	Education
Finance	Grievance	Equal Opportunity

Section 2. Special Committees. The President shall appoint subject to confirmation by the Board of Directors, such special committees as may be deemed necessary.

Section 3. Organization. All committees shall be of such size and shall have such duties, functions and powers as may be assigned to them by the President or the Board of Directors, except as otherwise provided in these by-laws.

Section 4. President. The President shall be ex officio, a member of all Standing Committees and shall be notified of their meetings.

Section 5. Appointments. Appointments to the Professional Standards Committee and Grievance Committee shall be consistent with the cooperative Professional Standards enforcement agreement of the board.

## ARTICLE XIV - FISCAL AND ELECTIVE YEAR

Section 1. The fiscal and elective year of the Board shall be the calendar year.

## ARTICLE XV - RULES OF ORDER

Section 1. Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall be recognized as the authority governing the meetings of the Board, its Board of Directors and Committees, in all instances wherein its provisions do not conflict with these by-laws.

## ARTICLE XVI - AMENDMENTS

Section 1. The Bylaws may be amended by majority vote of the REALTOR® Members qualified to vote provided a quorum of the voting members is reached and the substance of such proposed amendment or amendments shall be plainly stated in the call for the vote. A member may vote one time utilizing one of the following options:

- a. Should a meeting be called by the Board of Directors, the member may vote in person at that meeting.
- b. The member may vote in person at the board office up to ten days prior to the Election Meeting during regular office hours, or
- c.. The member may vote on line using the board designated website up to ten calendar days prior to the Election Meeting.

The Board of Directors may, at any regular or special meeting of the Board of Directors at which a quorum is present, approve amendments to the Bylaws which are mandated by NAR policy. Article XI may be amended only by a majority vote of all REALTOR® Members. Voting more than once voids the vote.

The Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the qualified (see Article V) REALTOR® Members provided the substance of such proposed amendment or amendments shall be plainly stated in the call for the vote. Voting more than once voids the vote.

Section 2. Notice by mail of all meetings at which such amendments are to be considered shall be given to every REALTOR® Member at least one week prior to the time of voting.

Section 3. Amendments to these by-laws affecting the admission or qualification of REALTOR® Members and Institute Affiliate Members, the use of the terms REALTOR® and REALTOR®, or any alteration in the territorial jurisdiction of the Board shall become effective upon their approval by the Board of Directors of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

## ARTICLE XVII – DISSOLUTION

Section 1. Upon the dissolution or winding up of the affairs of this Board, the Board of Directors, after providing for the payment of all obligations, shall distribute any remaining assets to the INDIANA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® or, within its discretion, to any other non-profit tax exempt organization.

## ARTICLE XVIII - MULTIPLE LISTING

Section 1. Authority. The Board shall maintain for the use of its members a Multiple Listing Service, which shall be subject to the by-laws of the Board and such Rules and Regulations as may be hereinafter adopted.

Section 2. Purpose. A Multiple Listing Service is:

- a facility for the orderly correlation and dissemination of listing information among participants so that they may better serve their clients and customers and the public
- a means by which authorized participants make blanket unilateral offers of compensation to other participants (acting as subagents, buyer agents, or in a non-agency capacity defined by law); by which cooperation among participants is enhanced; by which information is accumulated and disseminated to enable authorized Participants to prepare appraisals, analyses, and other valuations of real property for bona fide clients and customers; by which Participants engaging in real estate appraisal contribute to common databases; and is a facility for the orderly correlation and dissemination of listing information so participants may better serve their clients and the public. Entitlement to compensation is determined by the cooperating broker's performance as a procuring cause of the sale (or lease).

Section 3. Participation. Any REALTOR® Member of this or any Board, who is a principal, partner, or corporate officer, or branch manager acting on behalf of the principal, without further qualification, shall be eligible to participate in Multiple Listing upon agreeing in writing to conform to the Rules and Regulations thereof and to pay the cost incidental thereto. However, under no circumstances is any individual or firm, regardless of membership status, entitled to MLS "membership" or "participation" unless they hold a current, valid real estate broker's license and offer or accept compensation to and from other Participants or are licensed or certified by an appropriate state regulatory agency to engage in the appraisal of real property. Use of information developed by or published by a Board Multiple Listing Service is strictly limited to the activities authorized under a Participant's licensure (s) or certification and unauthorized uses are prohibited. Further, none of the foregoing is intended to convey "participation or membership" or any right of access to information developed or published by a Board Multiple Listing Service where access to such information is prohibited by law.\*

*Mere possession of a broker's license is not sufficient to qualify for MLS participation. Rather, the requirement that an individual or firm offers or accepts cooperation and compensation means that the participant actively endeavors during the operation of its real estate business to list real property of the type listed on the MLS and/or to accept offers of cooperation and compensation made by listing brokers or agents in the MLS. "Actively" means on a continual and ongoing basis during the operation of the participant's real estate business. The "actively" requirement is not intended to preclude MLS participation by a participant or potential participant that operates a real estate business on a part-time, seasonal, or similarly time-limited basis or that has its business interrupted by periods of relative inactivity occasioned by market conditions. Similarly, the requirement is not intended to deny MLS participation to a participant or potential participant who has not achieved a minimum number of transactions despite good faith efforts. Nor is it intended to permit an MLS to deny participation based on the level of service provided by the participant or potential participant as long as the level of service satisfies state law. (Adopted 11/08)*

*The key is that the participant or potential participant actively endeavors to make or accept offers of cooperation and compensation with respect to properties of the type that are listed on the MLS in which participation is sought. This requirement does not permit an MLS to deny participation to a participant or potential participant that operates a "Virtual Office Website" (VOW) (including a VOW that the participant uses to refer customers to other participants) if the participant or potential participant actively endeavors to make or accept offers of cooperation and compensation. An MLS*



may evaluate whether a participant or potential participant actively endeavors during the operation of its real estate business to offer or accept cooperation and compensation only if the MLS has a reasonable basis to believe that the participant or potential participant is in fact not doing so. The membership requirement shall be applied in a nondiscriminatory manner to all participants and potential participants. (Adopted 11/08)

(\*) NOTE: Generally, Boards of REALTORS®, when there is more than one principal in a real estate firm, define the chief principal officer of the firm as the MLS "Participant." Brokers or salespersons other than principals are not considered "Participants" in the Service, but have access to and use of the Service through the principal (s) with whom they are affiliated.

Section 4. Supervision. The activity shall be operated under the supervision of the Multiple Listing Committee, in accordance with the Rules and Regulations, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

Section 5. Appointment of Committee. The President shall appoint subject to confirmation by the Board of Directors, a Multiple Listing Committee of at least 9 members. All members of the Committee shall be participants in Multiple Listing. The committee shall select its Chairman from among the members thereof. The MLS Chairman shall have served one year's prior service on the MLS Committee. The MLS Chairman will serve as an MLS Director during their tenure as Chair of the MLS Committee.

Section 6. Vacancies. Vacancies in unexpired terms shall be filled as in the case of original appointees.

Section 7. Attendance. Committee members are obligated to attend all meetings. A committee member who is unable to attend a meeting is responsible for requesting an excused absence, subject to ratification by the committee. A request for an excused absence is to be requested to the Chairman or to the SEIBR office. Failure of a committee member to attend three regular or special meetings without ratified excuse shall be construed as resignation from the committee.

Section 8 Access to Comparable and Statistical Information.

Board members who are actively engaged in real estate brokerage, management, mortgage financing, appraising, land development or building, but who do not participate in the MLS, are nonetheless entitled to receive, by purchase or lease, information other than current listing information that is generated wholly or in part by the MLS including "comparable" information, "sold" information, and statistical reports. This information is provided for the exclusive use of Board Members and individuals affiliated with Board Members who are also engaged in the real estate business and may not be transmitted, retransmitted, or provided in any manner to any unauthorized individual, office or firm except as otherwise specified in the MLS Rules and Regulations. Board members who receive such information, either as a Board service or through the Board's MLS, are subject to the applicable provisions of the MLS Rules and Regulations whether they participate in the MLS or not.

Section 9. Subscribers. Subscribers (or users of the MLS include non-principal brokers, sales associates, and licensed and certified appraisers affiliated with Participants. \*(Optional provision:) Subscribers also include affiliated unlicensed administrative and clerical staff, personal assistants, and individuals seeking licensure or certification as real estate appraisers who are under the direct supervision of an MLS participant or the participant's licensed designee.) Adopted 4/92 M