

# NEW RIVER VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

## Article I - Name

**Section 1. Name.** The name of this organization shall be the New River Valley Association of REALTORS®, Incorporated, hereinafter referred to as the “Association.” It is an all REALTOR® Association.

**Section 2. REALTORS®.** Inclusion and retention of the Registered Collective Membership Mark REALTORS® in the name of the Association shall be governed by the Constitution and Bylaws of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® as from time to time amended.

## ARTICLE II - Objectives

The objects of the Association are:

**Section 1.** To unite those engaged in the recognized branches of the real estate profession 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 interests of home and other real property ownership.

**Section 5.** To unite those engaged in the real estate profession in this community with the Virginia Association of REALTORS® 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 terms REALTOR® and REALTORS® as licensed, prescribed, and controlled by the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®.

## ARTICLE III - Jurisdiction

**Section 1.** The territorial jurisdiction of the Association as a member of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® is: Montgomery, Pulaski, Giles, Wythe, Carroll, Floyd, Bland, Tazewell and Grayson Counties and the Cities of Radford and Galax.

**Section 2.** Territorial jurisdiction is defined to mean:

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

**ARTICLE IV - Membership**

**REALTOR® Members**

REALTOR® Members, whether primary or secondary shall be:

Individuals who, as sole proprietors, partners, corporate officers, or branch office 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 in the state of Virginia 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 an association of REALTORS® within the state or a state contiguous thereto, unless otherwise qualified for Institute Affiliate membership.

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 association 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.

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.

**Franchise REALTOR® Membership**

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 association-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; and

the right to hold elective office in the local association, state association, and National Association.

### **Primary and Secondary REALTOR® Members**

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

### **Designated REALTOR® Members**

Each firm (or office in the case of firms with multiple office locations) shall designate in writing one REALTOR® member who shall be responsible for all duties and obligations of membership, including the obligation to arbitrate (or to mediate if required by the association) pursuant to Article 17 of the Code of Ethics and the payment of association dues. 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.

### **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® or REALTOR-ASSOCIATE® membership, subject to payment of applicable dues for such membership.

### **Privileges of REALTOR® Members**

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

### **Obligation of REALTOR® Members**

It shall be the duty and responsibility of every REALTOR® member of this association to abide by the Constitution and Bylaws and the rules and regulations of the association, 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 association, as from time to time amended.

**Alternate Section 2 for associations that require members to mediate otherwise-arbitrable disputes:**

It shall be the duty and responsibility of every REALTOR® member of this association to abide by the Constitution and Bylaws and the rules and regulations of the association, 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 mediate and 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 association, as from time to time amended.

**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/herself with the Code of Ethics of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Rules and Regulations of the association, the State and National Associations, and if elected a member, will abide by the Constitutions and Bylaws and Rules and Regulations of the Association, State and National Associations and, if a REALTOR® member, will abide by the Code of Ethics of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, including the obligation to arbitrate (or to mediate if required by the Association) 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 Association, 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 association 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. (Amended 11/11)

**Section 2. Qualification**

(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 Association, through its membership committee or otherwise, that he/she 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 Association, 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 Association, and shall agree that if elected to membership, he/she will abide by such *Constitution*, Bylaws, rules and regulations, and Code of Ethics. (Amended 1/05)

(\* ) NO RECENT OR PENDING BANKRUPTCY is intended to mean that the applicant or any real estate firm in which the applicant is a sole proprietor, general partner, corporate officer, or branch office manager is not involved in any pending bankruptcy or insolvency proceedings or, has not been adjudged bankrupt in the past three (3) years. If a bankruptcy proceeding as described above exists, membership may not be rejected unless the Association establishes that its interests and those of its members and the public could not be adequately protected by requiring that the bankrupt applicant pay cash in advance for Association and MLS fees for up to one (1) year from the date that membership is approved or from the date that the applicant is discharged from bankruptcy (whichever is later). In the event that an existing member initiates bankruptcy proceedings, the member may be placed on a “cash basis” from the date that bankruptcy is initiated until one (1) year from the date that the member has been discharged from bankruptcy.

(\*\*) NO RECORD OF OFFICIAL SANCTIONS INVOLVING UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT is intended to mean that the Association may only consider:

- A. Judgments against the applicant within the past three (3) years of violations of (1) civil rights laws, (2) real estate license laws, and (3) or other laws prohibiting unprofessional conduct against the applicant rendered by the courts or other lawful authorities.
- B. Criminal convictions if (1) the crime was punishable by death or imprisonment in excess of one year under the law under which the applicant was convicted, and (2) no more than ten (10) years have elapsed since the date of the conviction or the release of the applicant from the confinement imposed for that conviction, whichever is the later date. (Amended 5/07)

**NOTE 1:** One or more of the requirements for REALTOR® membership set forth above in Article V, Section 2(a) may be deleted at the Association's discretion. However, Associations may NOT adopt membership qualifications more rigorous than specified in the *Membership Qualification Criteria for REALTOR® Membership*, approved by the Board of Directors of the National Association.

**NOTE 2:** Article IV, Section 2, of the NAR Bylaws prohibits member Associations from knowingly granting REALTOR® or REALTOR-ASSOCIATE® membership to any applicant who has an unfulfilled sanction pending which was imposed by another Association of REALTORS® 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 a designated REALTOR® member of the Association or a designated REALTOR® member of another Association (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, has no record of official sanctions involving unprofessional conduct\*, shall complete a course of instruction covering the Bylaws and rules and regulations of the Association, 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 Association, and shall agree in writing that if elected to membership he/she will abide by such *Constitution*, Bylaws, rules and regulations, and the Code of Ethics. (Amended 5/07)

(\* ) No record of official sanctions involving unprofessional conduct is intended to mean that the Association may only consider:

A. Judgments against the applicant within the past three (3) years of violations of (1) civil rights laws, (2) real estate license laws, and (3) or other laws prohibiting unprofessional conduct against the applicant rendered by the courts or other lawful authorities.

B. Criminal convictions if (1) the crime was punishable by death or imprisonment in excess of one year under the law under which the applicant was convicted, and (2) no more than ten years have elapsed since the date of the conviction or the release of the applicant from the confinement imposed for that conviction, whichever is the later date. (Adopted 5/07)

(c) The 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

"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 (6) months from the date that provisional membership is approved. Provisional members shall be considered REALTORS® 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 11/09)

### **Section 3. Election of New Members:**

(a) Applicants for REALTOR® (and REALTOR-ASSOCIATE®, where applicable) membership shall be granted provisional membership immediately upon submission of a completed application form and remittance of applicable Association dues and any application fee. Provisional members shall be considered REALTORS® (or REALTOR-ASSOCIATES®) and shall be subject to all of the same privileges and obligations of membership. Provisional membership is granted subject to subsequent review of the application by the Board of Directors. If the Board of Directors determines that the individual does not meet all of the qualifications for membership as established in the Association's bylaws, or, if the individual does not satisfy all of the requirements of membership (for example, completion of a mandatory orientation program) within 180 days from the Association's receipt of their application, membership may, at the discretion of the Board of Directors, be terminated.

(b) Dues shall be computed from the date of application and shall be non-refundable unless the Association's Board of Directors terminates the individual's membership in accordance with Subsection (a) above. In such instances, dues shall be returned to the individual less a prorated amount to cover the number of days that the individual received Association services and any application fee.

(c) The Board of Directors may not terminate any provisional membership without providing the provisional member with advance notice, an opportunity to appear before the Board of Directors, to call witnesses on his/her behalf, to be represented by counsel, and to make such statements as he/she 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 or may electronically or mechanically record the proceedings.

(d) If the Board of Directors determines that provisional membership should be terminated, it shall record its reasons with the chief staff executive. If the board of directors believes that termination of provisional membership may become the basis of litigation and a claim of damage by a provisional member, it may specify that termination shall become effective upon entry in a suit by the association for a declaratory judgment by a court of competent jurisdiction of a final judgment declaring that the termination violates no rights of the individual. (Adopted 1/98, Amended 1/05)

### **Section 4. Code of Ethics: Professional Standards and Training**

#### **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 (2) hours and thirty (30) 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 (1) year or less.

Failure to satisfy this requirement within 180 days of the date of application (or, alternatively, the date that provisional membership was granted), will result in denial of the membership application or termination of provisional membership.

### **Continuing REALTOR® Code of Ethics Training**

Effective January 1, 2019, through December 31, 2021 and for successive three year periods thereafter, each REALTOR® member of the association (with the exception of REALTOR® members granted REALTOR® Emeritus status by the National Association) shall be required to complete ethics training of not less than two (2) hours and thirty (30) 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 REALTORS® association, the State Association of REALTORS® or the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, 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 three year cycle shall not be required to complete additional ethics training until a new three year cycle commences.

Failure to satisfy the required periodic ethics training shall be considered a violation of a membership duty. Failure to meet the requirement in any three year cycle will result in suspension of membership for the first two months (January and February) of the year following the end of any three 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.

### **Discipline of REALTOR® Members**

Any REALTOR® member of the association 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 association, 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.

### **Enforcement of the Code**

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 the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, as amended from time to time, which is by this reference incorporated into these Bylaws, provided, however, that any provision deemed inconsistent with state law shall be deleted or amended to comply with state law.

### **Section 6. Status Changes:**

(a) A REALTOR® who changes the conditions under which he/she holds membership shall be required to provide written notification to the Association within thirty (30) days. A REALTOR® (non-principal) who becomes a principal in the firm with which he/she 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 sixty (60) days of the date they advised the Association of their change in status, their new membership application will terminate automatically unless otherwise so directed by the Board of Directors.

A REALTOR® who is transferring his/her license from one firm comprised of REALTOR® principals to another firm comprised of REALTOR® principals shall be subject to all of the privileges and obligations of membership during the period of transition. If the transfer is not completed within ten (10) days of the date the Association is advised of the disaffiliation with the current firm, membership will terminate automatically unless otherwise so directed by the Board of Directors. (Amended 1/98)

**Note:** The Board of Directors, at its discretion, may waive any qualification which the applicant has already fulfilled in accordance with the Association'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. (Amended 1/05)

## **ARTICLE VI – Privileges and Obligations**

**Section 1.** The privileges and obligations of members, in addition to those otherwise provided in these Bylaws, shall be specified in this Article.

**Section 2.** Any member of the Association may be reprimanded, fined, placed on probation, suspended, or expelled by the Board of Directors for a violation of these Bylaws and Association rules and regulations consistent with these Bylaws, after a

hearing as provided in the *Code of Ethics and Arbitration Manual* of the Association. Although members other than REALTORS® are not subject to the Code of Ethics, nor its enforcement by the Association, such members are encouraged to abide by the principles established in the Code of Ethics of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® and conduct their business and professional practices accordingly. Further, members other than REALTORS® 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 Association, the State Association, and the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®.

**Section 3.** Any REALTOR® member of the Association 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 Association, 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 Association for dues, fees, fines, or other assessments of the Association or any of its services, departments, divisions, or subsidiaries, the Association 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 association or otherwise causes membership to terminate with an ethics complaint pending, the complaint shall be processed until the decision of the association with respect to disposition of the complaint is final by this association (if respondent does not hold membership in any other association) or by any other association in which the respondent continues to hold membership. If an ethics respondent resigns or otherwise causes membership in all Boards to terminate before an ethics complaint is filed alleging unethical conduct occurred while the respondent was a REALTOR®, the complaint, once filed, shall be processed until the decision of the association with respect to disposition of the complaint is final. In any instance where an ethics hearing is held subsequent to an ethic respondent's resignation or membership termination, any discipline ratified by the Board of Directors shall be held in abeyance until such time as the respondent rejoins an association of REALTORS®.

(a) If a member resigns or otherwise causes membership to terminate, the duty to submit to arbitration (or to mediation if required by the association) continues in effect even after membership lapses or is terminated, provided that the dispute arose while the former member was a REALTOR®. (Amended 1/00 and 11/11)

**Section 6.** REALTOR® Members. REALTOR® members, whether primary or secondary, in good standing whose financial obligations to the Association are paid in full shall be entitled to vote and to hold elective office in the Association; may use the terms REALTOR® and REALTORS®, which use shall be subject to the provisions of Article VIII; and have the primary responsibility to safeguard and promote the standards,

interests, and welfare of the Association and the real estate profession.

(a) If a REALTOR® Member is a principal in a firm, partnership, or 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, 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, whichever may apply. Further, the membership of REALTORS® other than principals who are employed by 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 until connection of the disciplined Member with the firm, partnership, or corporation is severed, whichever may apply.

If a REALTOR® Member who is other than a principal in a firm, partnership, or corporation is suspended or expelled, the use of the terms REALTOR® or REALTORS® by the firm, partnership, or corporation shall not be affected.

(b) In any action taken against a REALTOR® member for suspension or expulsion under Section 6(a) hereof, notice of such action shall be given to all REALTORS® employed by or affiliated as independent contractors with such REALTOR® member and they shall be advised that the provisions in Article VI, Section 6(a) 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. (Amended 1/02)

**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

Association shall certify to the Association during the month of either January or February on a form provided by the Association, a complete listing of all individuals licensed or certified in the REALTOR®'s office(s) and shall designate a primary Association for each individual who holds membership. Designated REALTORS® shall also identify any non-member licensees in the REALTOR®'s office(s) and if Designated REALTOR® dues have been paid to another Association based on said non-member licensees, the Designated REALTOR® shall identify the Association 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 Association of any additional individual (s) licensed or certified with the firm(s) within ten (10) days of the date of affiliation or severance of the individual.

**Section 13.** Harassment. Any member of the Association may be reprimanded, placed on probation, suspended or expelled for harassment of an Association or MLS employee or Association officer or director after an investigation in accordance with the procedures of the Association. As used in this Section, harassment means any verbal or physical conduct including threatening or obscene language, unwelcome sexual advances, stalking, actions including strikes, shoves, kicks, or other similar physical contact, or threats to do the same, or any other conduct with the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance by creating a hostile, intimidating or offensive work environment. The decision of the appropriate disciplinary action to be taken shall be made by the investigatory team comprised of the President, and President-Elect and/or Vice-President and one member of the Board of Directors selected by the highest ranking officer not named in the complaint, upon consultation with legal counsel for the Association. Disciplinary action may include any sanction authorized in the association's Code of Ethics and Arbitration Manual. If the complaint names the President, President-Elect or Vice-President, they may not participate in the proceedings and shall be replaced by the Immediate Past President or alternatively, by another member of the Board of Directors selected by the highest ranking officer not named in the complaint.

**Note:** Suggested procedures for processing complaints of harassment are available at <http://www.REALTOR.org>, or from the Member Policy Department. (Amended 5/08)

## **ARTICLE VII – Professional Standards and Arbitration**

**Section 1.** The responsibility of the Association and 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 the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, as from time to time amended, which is by this reference incorporated into these Bylaws, provided, however, that any provision deemed inconsistent with state law shall be deleted or amended to comply with state law.

**Section 2.** It shall be the duty and responsibility of every REALTOR® member of this Association to abide by the Constitution and Bylaws and the Rules and Regulations of the Association, 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 Association, as from time to time amended.

**Section 3.** The responsibility of the Association and Association members relating to the enforcement of the Code of Ethics, the disciplining of members, the arbitration of disputes, and the organization and procedures incident thereto, shall be consistent with the cooperative professional standards enforcement agreement entered into by the Association, which by this reference is made a part of these Bylaws.

## **ARTICLE VIII - Use of the Terms REALTOR® AND REALTORS®**

### **REALTOR® Trademark**

Inclusion and retention of the Registered Collective Membership Mark REALTORS® in the name of the association shall be governed by the *Constitution and Bylaws of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®* as from time to time amended.

Use of the terms REALTOR® and REALTORS® 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 association 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.

REALTOR® members of the association shall have the privilege of using the terms REALTOR® and REALTORS® in connection with their places of business within the state or a state contiguous thereto so long as they remain REALTOR® members in good standing. No other class of members shall have this privilege.

A REALTOR® principal member may use the terms REALTOR® and REALTORS®, 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 or Institute Affiliate members.

In the case of a REALTOR® principal member whose business activity is substantially all commercial, the right to use the term REALTOR® or REALTORS® shall be limited to office locations in which a principal holds REALTOR® membership. If a firm, partnership, or corporation operates additional places of business in which no principal holds REALTOR® membership, the term REALTOR® or REALTORS® may not be used in any reference to those additional places of business.

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

## **ARTICLE IX – State and National Memberships**

**Section 1.** The Association shall be a member of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® and Virginia REALTORS®. By reason of the Association’s membership, each REALTOR® member of the member Association shall be entitled to membership in the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® and Virginia REALTORS® without further payment of dues. The Association shall continue as a member of the State and National Associations, unless by a majority vote of all of 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 Association recognizes the exclusive property rights of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® in the terms REALTOR® and REALTORS®. The Association shall 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 the terms.

**Section 3.** The Association adopts the Code of Ethics of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® and agrees to enforce the Code among its REALTOR® members. The Association and all of its members agree to abide by the Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, and policies of the National Association and the Virginia Association of REALTORS®.

## **ARTICLE X - Dues and Assessments**

**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.

### **Section 2. Designated REALTOR® Members Dues**

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.

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 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 provided that such licensee is not otherwise included in the computation of dues payable by the principal 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®. Designated REALTORS® shall notify the association within three (3) days of any change in status of licensees in a referral firm.

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.

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.

## **REALTOR® Members Dues**

The annual dues of REALTOR® members other than the designated REALTOR® shall be as established annually by the board of directors.

## **Institute Affiliate Members Dues**

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

**Section 3.** Dues Payable. Dues for all Members shall be payable annually in advance on the first day of August. Dues not paid by August 15th shall be subject to a 10% late fee. Dues for new members 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. **Dues once paid are non-refundable.**

(a) In the event a sales licensee or licensed or certified appraiser who holds REALTOR® membership is dropped for nonpayment of Association 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 thirty (30) days of the notice of termination.

**Section 4.** Nonpayment of Financial Obligations. If dues, fees, fines, or other assessments including amounts owed to the Association or the Association's Multiple Listing Service are not paid within one (1) month after the due date, the nonpaying Member is subject to suspension at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Forty-five (45) days after the due date, membership of the nonpaying Member shall be terminated, provided the member was notified ten (10) days prior to termination of the consequences of non-payment. 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 Association or 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 and Expenditures. Deposits and expenditures of funds shall be in accordance with the policies established by the Board of Directors. (Amended 1/05)

**Section 6.** Notice of Dues, Fees, Fines, Assessments, and Other Financial Obligations of Members. All dues, fees, fines, assessments, or other financial obligations to the Association or Association Multiple Listing Service shall be noticed to the delinquent Association member in writing setting forth the amount owed and due date.



**Section 7.** The dues of REALTOR® members who are REALTOR® Emeriti (as recognized by the National Association), past presidents and past treasurers of the National Association or recipients of the Distinguished Service Award shall be as determined by the Board of Directors. (Amended 11/2013)

**NOTE:** A Member Board's dues obligation to the National Association is reduced by an amount equal to the amount which the Association is assessed for a REALTOR® member, times the number of REALTOR® Emeriti (as recognized by the National Association), past presidents and past treasurers of the National Association, and recipients of the Distinguished Service Award of the National Association who are REALTOR® members of the Association. The dues obligation of such individuals to the local Association should be reduced to reflect the reduction in the Association's dues obligation to the National Association. The Association may, at its option, choose to have no dues requirement for such individuals except as may be required to meet the Association's obligation to the State Association with respect to such individuals. Member Boards should determine whether the dues payable by the Association to the State Association are reduced with respect to such individuals. It should be noted that this does not affect a Designated REALTOR®'s dues obligation to the Association with respect to those licensees employed by or affiliated with the Designated REALTOR® who are not members of the local Association. (Amended 11/2013)

## **Article XI – Officers and Directors**

**Section 1. Board of Directors.** The governing body of the Association shall be the Board of Directors consisting of the President, President-Elect, Vice-President, the Immediate Past President, four Directors, and the current chair of the MLS Committee. All Officers and Directors shall be REALTOR® members of the Association. The Chief Executive Officer is the only non-voting member of the Board of Directors.

### **(1) Term Limits.**

- (a) The President, President-Elect, and Vice-President shall serve one (1) year terms and shall not be able to succeed themselves after serving a full term of one (1) year.
- (b) Directors shall be elected for a term of two (2) years and are eligible for re-election to one (1) additional two year term. No more than two (2) consecutive terms may be served by a Director without a one (1) year absence.
- (c) The chair of the MLS Committee shall be a full, voting member of the Board of Directors and shall be appointed to a one (1) year term and shall not serve more than two consecutive terms.

### **(2) Succession.**

- (a) The President-Elect shall automatically accede to the office of President at the

conclusion of the term of the incumbent President or when the office of President is declared vacant by the Board of Directors for reason of resignation, incapacity, or death.

- (b) The Vice-President shall automatically accede to the office of President-Elect at the conclusion of the term of the incumbent President-Elect or when the office of President-Elect is declared vacant by the Board of Directors for reason of resignation, incapacity, or death.

- (3) **Board Diversity.** No more than two REALTORS® from the same real estate firm may simultaneously serve on the Board of Directors. The office of Immediate Past President shall not be included in this count. With the exception of the Immediate Past President, the member of the Board of Directors who transfers to a firm with two (2) members on the Board of Directors shall resign from the Board of Directors at the time the license is transferred.

**Section 2. Leadership Team.** The Leadership Team shall consist of the four elected officers of the Association: President, President-Elect, Vice-President, Immediate Past President, and the Chief Executive Officer, who is a non-voting member. The Leadership Team shall conduct the affairs of the Association according to the policies and instructions of the Board of Directors. In between meetings of the Board of Directors, should a decision or action be required on a matter which the Board of Directors has not established a policy or instructions, the Leadership Team is authorized to take such action necessary to carry out the objectives of the Association. Such action shall be reported in full at the next Board of Directors meeting.

**Section 3. 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. The President of the Association shall act as Chairman of the Board of Directors. The duties of the Secretary / Treasurer shall be the responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer who shall act as the Corporate Secretary for the Association. It shall be the particular duty of the Chief Executive Officer to keep the records of the association and to carry on all necessary correspondence with the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® and the Virginia Association of REALTORS®.

**Section 4. Election of Officers and Directors.** The Nominating Committee shall present a slate of Officers and Directors as needed to the Board of Directors for approval no later than October 1<sup>st</sup>.

- (a) Only REALTOR® members who submit their name and qualifications to the Nominating Committee in writing prior to September 1<sup>st</sup> shall be considered as a candidate for an Officer or Director by the Nominating Committee.
- (b) The election of Officers and Directors will be by ballot at the Annual Meeting in accordance with any procedures established by the Board of Directors.
- (c) The President, with the approval of the Board of Directors, shall appoint an election committee of three (3) members to conduct its election. In case of a tie vote, the issue shall be determined by lot.

- (d) If more than two nominees from the same firm receive sufficient votes to be considered elected to the Board of Directors, only the nominees from that same firm with either the two highest vote totals, or unopposed nominees, or any combination of highest vote totals and unopposed nominees shall be elected to the Board of Directors. In no case can there be more than two members from the same firm serving on the Board of Directors whether a Director or Officer or both. The office of Immediate Past President shall not be included in this count.
- (e) No member can serve as President who has not been licensed and associated with a REALTOR® member firm of the Association for at least (5) years prior to October 1<sup>st</sup> of the year of election. This criterion shall be reduced to four (4) years for the office of President-Elect and shall be reduced to three (3) years for the office of Vice-President.

**Section 5. Vacancies.** Vacancies by resignation or otherwise among the Board of Directors shall be filled by a simple majority vote of the Board of Directors for the remainder of any unexpired term.

**Section 6. VAR Delegates.** VAR Delegates shall be the President and President-Elect. Any additional VAR Delegates shall be selected by the President from the members who are actively involved with the Virginia Association of REALTORS®.

**Section 7. 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 Association 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 Association 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.

**Section 8. Chief Executive Officer.** There shall be a Chief Executive Officer, who shall be the chief administrative officer whose duty it shall be to administer the business of the Association. The Chief Executive Officer shall have the authority to employ and discharge all support staff of the Association, shall exercise general supervision over the Association office and employees, and shall approve all necessary correspondence in the name of the Association.

## ARTICLE XII - MEETINGS

**Section 1. Annual Meeting.** The Annual Meeting of the Association shall be held during either October or November of each year with the date, place, and hour to be designated by the Board of Directors.

**Section 2. Meetings of Directors.** The Board of Directors shall designate a regular time and place of meeting. Absence from two regular meetings without an excuse deemed valid by the Board of Directors per fiscal year shall be construed as resignation.

**Section 3. 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 Members eligible to vote.

**Section 4. Notice of Meetings.** Written notice, by either letter or electronic means, shall be given to every member entitled to participate in the meeting at least ten days preceding all meetings. If a special meeting is called, it shall be accompanied by a statement of the purpose of the meeting.

**Section 5. Quorum.** A quorum for the transaction of business shall consist of 10% of the members eligible to vote.

## ARTICLE XIII - COMMITTEES

**Section 1. Standing Committees.** The President shall appoint from among the REALTOR® and Affiliate members, subject to confirmation by the Board of Directors, the following Standing Committees:

Awards  
Celebration  
Education  
Governmental Affairs  
Grievance  
Membership  
MLS & Lockbox Policy  
Nominating  
Professional Standards & Arbitration  
RPAC  
Technology  
YPN

**Section 2.** Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the President-Elect and consist of at least three (3) REALTOR® members, one (1) of whom shall be a Past President. If a member of the Nominating Committee chooses to apply for a seat on the Board of Directors, that member shall resign from the Committee.

**Section 3.** Special Committees. The President shall appoint, subject to confirmation by the Board of Directors, such special committees, task forces, or work groups as deemed necessary.

**Section 4.** Organization. All committees, task forces, and work groups 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 Bylaws.

**Section 5.** President. The President shall be an ex officio member of all standing committees and shall be notified of their meetings.

#### **ARTICLE XIV – Fiscal and Elective Year**

**Section 1.** The fiscal and elective year of the Association shall commence December 1st.

#### **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 Association, its Board of Directors, and committees, in all instances wherein its provisions do not conflict with these Bylaws.

#### **ARTICLE XVI - Amendments**

**Section 1.** These Bylaws may be amended by the majority vote of the members present and qualified to vote at any meeting at which a quorum is present (a quorum will be established according to Article XII, Section 5) provided the substance of such proposed amendment or amendments shall be plainly stated in the call for the meeting, except that 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.

**Section 2.** Notice by electronic means of all meetings at which such amendments are to be considered shall be given to every REALTOR® member at least two (2) weeks prior to the time of meeting. Such notice must contain the substance of the proposed amendments.

**Section 3.** Amendments to these Bylaws affecting the admission or qualification of REALTOR® and Institute Members, the use of the terms REALTOR® and REALTORS®, or any alteration in the territorial jurisdiction of the Association shall become effective upon their approval as authorized by the Board of Directors of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®.

## **ARTICLE XVII - Dissolution**

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

## **ARTICLE XVIII - Indemnification**

Each Director and Officer of the Association shall be indemnified by the Association against liabilities, fines, penalties, judgments and claims imposed upon or asserted against him or her (including amounts paid in settlement) by reason of having been such a Director or Officer, whether or not then continuing so to be, and against all expenses (including counsel fees) reasonably incurred by him in connection therewith, except in relation to matters as to which he or she shall have been finally adjudged to be liable by reason of having been guilty of gross negligence or willful misconduct in the performance of his or her duty as such Director or Officer. The determination as to indemnification shall be made by the Board of Directors which may rely, as to all questions of law, on the advice of its counsel. Every reference herein to Director or Officer shall include every Director or Officer or former Director or Officer of the Association, including the Chief Executive Officer who is an employee of the Association and his or her personal representatives. The right of indemnification hereby provided shall not be exclusive of any other rights to which any Director or Officer may be entitled.

## **ARTICLE XIX – Multiple Listing Service**

Subsidiary Multiple Listing Corporation

**Section 1.** Authority. The New River Valley Association of REALTORS® shall maintain for the use of its members a Multiple Listing Service which shall be a lawful corporation of the State of Virginia, all stock of which shall be owned by the New River Valley Association of REALTORS®.

**Section 2.** Purpose. A Multiple Listing Service is a means by which authorized participants make blanket unilateral offers of compensation to other participants (acting as subagents, buyer agents, or in other agency or non-agency capacities 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). (Amended 11/04)

**Section 3.** Governing Documents. The Board of Directors shall cause any Multiple Listing Service established by it pursuant to this Article to conform its corporate Charter, Constitution, Bylaws, Rules, Regulations, Policies, Practices, and Procedures at all times

to the Constitution, Bylaws, Rules, Regulations, and Policies of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®.

**Section 4.** Participation. Any REALTOR® of this or any other Member Association who is a principal, partner, corporate officer, or branch manager acting on behalf of the principal, without further qualification, except as otherwise stipulated in these bylaws, shall be eligible to participate in Multiple Listing upon agreeing in writing to conform to the Rules and Regulations thereof and to pay the costs incidental thereto.\* However, under no circumstances is any individual or firm, regardless of membership status, entitled to Multiple Listing Service “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 an Association 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 an Association Multiple Listing Service where access to such information is prohibited by law. (Amended 11/08)

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)

- Any applicant for MLS participation and any licensee (including licensed or certified appraisers) affiliated with an MLS Participant who has access to and use of MLS-generated information shall complete an orientation program of no more than eight

(8) classroom hours devoted to the MLS rules and regulations and computer training related to MLS information entry and retrieval within thirty (30) days after access has been provided.

- Generally, Associations 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 with whom they are affiliated.

**Section 5.** Subscribers. Subscriber (or Users) of the MLS include non-principal brokers, sales associates, and licensed and certified appraisers affiliated with Participants. 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.

**Section 6. Supervision.** The activity shall be operated under the supervision of the Multiple Listing Committee, in accordance with the rules and regulations, subject to approval of the Board of Directors of the New River Valley Association of REALTORS®.

## **ARTICLE XX – Code of Ethics**

**Section 1. Adoption.** The Code of Ethics of the National Association of REALTORS® shall be the Code of Ethics of this Association.

**Section 2. Observance.** All REALTOR® members of the Association shall abide by the Association’s Bylaws and the National Association of REALTORS® Code of Ethics. All REALTOR® members are hereby irrevocably bound by the decisions of the Board of Directors and the Professional Standards Committee.

Bylaws Adopted by the Membership  
July 31, 2014

Revised and approved by NAR  
May 2, 2017

Revised and approved by NAR  
March 29, 2018

Revised and re-certified per NAR  
September 10, 2020