ATTENTION

This version of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association of Belarusians in America was officially adopted by the General Board during its regular meeting on March 3, 2022, based on the results of online voting and votes held during the General Board meetings on February 24 and March 3, 2022.

Total number of members of the ABA General Board: 36

Total IOU: 24

Question 1:

Do you vote to adopt the current version of the ABA Constitution as the official governing document?

Voting results:

Total votes cast: 22 General Board Members (GB), 16 Independent Organizational Units (IOU)

In favor: 21 members of GB, 15 IOU

Against: 0

Abstained: 1 member of the GB, 1 IOU

Question 2:

Do you vote to accept the current version of the ABA Bylaws as the official governing document?

Voting results:

Total votes cast: 24 members of the GB, 18 IOU

In favor: 20 Members of GB, 15 IOU

Against: 0

Abstained: 4 members of the GB, 3 IOU

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THE CONSTITUTION

of the Association of Belarusians in America

We, the Belarusians of America, exercising the democratic rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States of America, have established the Association of Belarusians in America, intending to protect Belarusian national traditions, language, and customs and assist the people of Belarus in building and developing a democratic, independent Belarus.

Article 1. Introduction

Article 1.1. Name

Association of Belarusians in America, Incorporated (hereinafter ABA).

Article 1.2. Territories

Through its activities, the Association of Belarusians in America (ABA) operates throughout the United States.

Article 1.3. Language

This Constitution is published in two languages - Belarusian and English. Both editions shall be used as equivalent. In case of a dispute or disagreement, the Belarusian version shall have the binding authority.

Article 1.4. Changes

1.4.1. This Constitution may be replaced or amended at a General Board Meeting by a two-thirds vote of the entire General Board present in person or by written/electronic authorization, provided that the decision to amend was made at a previous General Board Meeting, and a draft of amendments was prepared for consideration by a special working group.

1.4.2. When adopting amendments to the Constitution, the original text shall be retained, and the amendments placed separately under the Amendment to the Constitution with the corresponding serial number and referring to the relevant part of the Constitution.

1.4.3. When an amendment to the Constitution is adopted, its content shall become valid, and the corresponding part in the original version shall lose its force.

Article 1.5. Entry into force

This Constitution was adopted by the meeting of the General Board on 3/3/2022. All previous texts of the Constitution shall be irrelevant.

Article 2. The nature of the organization, its goals, and objectives.

Article 2.1. The nature and principles of work

2.1.1. ABA is a Belarusian, public, charitable, non-profit, non-partisan organization.

2.1.2. ABA is a platform for cooperation and mutual support of existing Belarusian communities and/or Belarusian-American non-profit organizations in the United States.

2.1.3. The work of the ABA is based on the principles and ideals of the US Constitution, the Charter of the United Nations, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Article 2.2. Goals and objectives

2.2.1. Implement the ideas established by this Constitution.

2.2.2. Coordinate the activities of existing Belarusian communities and/or Belarusian-American non-profit organizations in the United States and promote free exchange of information between them.

2.2.3. Unite Belarusians for mutual assistance in public, charitable, and educational work.

2.2.4. Popularize knowledge about the Belarusian-American community, its history, activity, and development.

2.2.5. Represent the Belarusian-American community to the people and government of the US

2.2.6. Help the Belarusian-American community preserve the Belarusian heritage, history, culture, and language.

2.2.7. Create and/or promote favorable conditions for the full and comprehensive development of the Belarusian communities and/or Belarusian-American nonprofits in the US

2.2.8. Create and/or promote favorable conditions for the comprehensive development of civil society in Belarus.

2.2.9. Assist Belarusians in America, who have suffered from natural, environmental, industrial, and other disasters.

2.2.10. Assist Belarusian victims of repression, refugees, internally displaced persons due to emergencies, economic and political crises, social, national, and religious conflicts in the US and abroad.

2.2.11. Establish and maintain public and cultural ties between Belarusian NGOs in the United States and abroad.

Article 3. Members

(i) ABA members may be persons of Belarusian descent, natives of Belarus within its ethnographic boundaries (according to Yawkhim Karski), or persons related to Belarus who respect the Belarusian language, culture, history, and support the idea of a free, independent Belarus.

(ii) Persons under the influence of or cooperating with anti-democratic regimes, anti-American organizations, criminal structures, and conspiracy organizations may not be members of the ABA.

(iii) Members undertake to act in accordance with this Constitution and the ABA Bylaws.

(iv) Members must be US Residents aged 18 and over.

(v) Members must respect and honor the national historical symbols of Belarus: the white-red-white flag and the “Pahonia” coat of arms.

(vi) Members must show respect for the Association of Belarusians in America (ABA).

Article 4. Organizational structure

The ABA consists of the General Board, the Presidium, and the Committees, which perform their duties according to this Constitution and the ABA Bylaws:

(i) The General Board is the central collegial-representative governing body.

(ii) The ABA Presidium is the executive and representative body of the ABA.

(iii) The Committee is an executive body that operates permanently under the direction of the General Board.

THE BYLAWS

of the Association of Belarusians in America

SECTION 1 Terms

In these Bylaws and all other acts and resolutions of the ABA, unless otherwise stated, the following terms are used as defined below:

(a) The General Board is the central collegial governing and legislative body of the ABA.

(b) Presidium is the permanent executive and representative body of the ABA.

(c) A member of the Presidium is a member of the General Board elected to one of the positions of the Presidium.

(d) The Committee shall be the executive body, operating permanently in the direction determined by the General Board.

(e) Independent Organizational Unit (IOU) is an existing Belarusian community and/or a registered Belarusian-American nonprofit organization in the United States.

(f) Resident of the United States means a person who resides legally in the United States for more than 6 months of the calendar year.

(g) A representative of the IOU is a member of the General Board authorized to represent the IOU in the General Board.

(h) The deputy representative of the IOU is a member of the General Board who is authorized to act as a representative of the IOU if the latter is unable to fulfill his/her duties.

SECTION 2 Members, their rights and responsibilities

2.1. Types of Membership

2.1.1. Members of the ABA

ABA members consist of

i. Members of the General Board;

ii. Supporters;

2.1.2. Honorary Members

A person may be awarded the title of Honorary Member for outstanding contribution to the Belarusian people or the ABA.

i. A candidate, who was proposed by a member of the General Board, becomes an Honorary Member if at least two-thirds (2/3) of the total number of members of the General Board support his candidacy as a result of voting at the General Board Meeting.

ii. The title of Honorary Member may be revoked by the General Board by at least two-thirds of the vote (2/3) of the total number of members of the General Board.

iii. Honorary Members don't have to possess an ABA's Membership, but are required to meet the criteria outlined in Article 3 (i) and (ii) of the Constitution.

iv. Honorary Members are exempt from paying annual membership dues.

2.2. Members of the General Board

The members of the General Board are elected representatives of Independent Organizational Units (IOU).

2.2.1. Independent Organizational Unit

Independent Organizational Unit (IOU) is an existing Belarusian community and/or Belarusian-American

registered nonprofit organization in the U.S. (see Section 1(e)).

i. Belarusian community

Belarusian community in the U.S. is a group of Belarusian people who share a bounded geographic U.S. territory and meets the following criteria: (i) 20 or more registered participants who comply with the requirements outlined in Article III of the Constitution; (ii) has an active official online group (chat) in social media or a website that is actively engaged in the development of the Belarusian diaspora in the U.S. and pursues the achievement of the goals and objectives outlined in Section 2.2 of the Constitution.

ii. Belarusian-American Non-profit Organization

A Belarusian-American non-profit organization shall be officially registered in the U.S., and its activities shall comply with the goals and objectives outlined in Section 2.2 of the Constitution.

2.2.2. Exceptions

(i) By way of exception, Members of General Board can be US a resident of Belarusian descent who (i) has been actively involved in the life of the Belarusian diaspora in the U.S. for more than 2 years or (ii) is a founder of social, educational, research, or creative project benefiting and developing the Belarusian diaspora in the U.S., or (iii) is a founder or the President of a nonprofit organization registered in the U.S. and is ready to use his experience and knowledge for the achievement of the goals and objectives set forth Section 2.2 of the Constitution.

(ii) The number of Members of the General Board elected by clause 2.2.2. Bylaws shall not exceed one-third (1/3) of the total number of Members of the General Board.

2.2.3. Requirements for membership in the General Board

To become a Member of the General Board, the Applicant must:

(i) Meet the eligibility criteria outlined in Article III of the Constitution;

(ii) Submit a Membership Application either electronically or in writing to any member of the ABA General Board Presidium, or via the official ABA website;

(iii) Support the mission and goals outlined in Section 2.2 of the Constitution at the time of application and in the future;

(iv) Pay the membership fees.

(v) Membership fees in the amount of $100 (one hundred U.S. dollars) must be paid no later than 48 hours after receiving a formal acceptance letter from the Secretary confirming the individual's status as a Supporter Member of ABA.

(vi) The Secretary is responsible for verifying that fees have been paid in accordance with the amount established by the General Board.

(vii) Failure to pay fees within the specified period will result in the cancellation of the application.

2.2.4. Applying for membership in the General Board

(i) Application for membership in the General Board shall be submitted to the General Board, which must review it within thirty (30) days from the date of receipt.

(ii) Membership dues in the amount of $100 (one hundred U.S. dollars) must be paid no later than 48 hours after receiving a letter from the Secretary confirming the individual's acceptance as a Member of the General Board. The Secretary is responsible for verifying that

the dues have been paid in the amount established by the General Board. If the dues are not paid within the specified period, the application will be canceled.

(iii) When the General Board determines by vote by the item 3.5 of the Bylaws that the Belarusian community and/or non-profit organization represented by the applicant meets the criteria outlined in Section 2.2.2-3 of the Bylaws, and that the applicant complies with the requirements outlined in Section 2.2.5 of the Bylaws, said applicant immediately becomes a member of the General Board, assuming all the rights and responsibilities specified below (Section 2.2.5 of the Bylaws);

(iv) When the General Board determines that the Belarusian community and/or non-profit organization represented by the applicant meets the criteria outlined in Section 2.2.2-3 of the Bylaws and that the applicant complies with the requirements outlined in Section 2.2.5 of the Bylaws, the application shall be denied.

(v) The Applicant must be notified about the decision of the General Board, the explanation thereof, and a recommendation for possible further steps within 5 business days from the date the decision was made.

(vi) If the application for membership in the General Board is denied, the applicant may appeal the decision within thirty (30) days and provide the General Board with additional evidence, depending on the reason for rejection. The General Board shall review the application within thirty (30) days from the date the appeal was made. If the application is denied for the second time, said decision is final and is not subject to appeal.

2.2.5. The Rights and Responsibilities of Members of the General Board

(i) Right and duty to participate in the Meetings of the General Board;

(ii) Right to vote at the meetings of the General Board by the procedure described in Section 3.5 of the Bylaws;

(iii) The authority to act on behalf of the ABA in legal matters related to the organization's activities.

(iv) Right to use informational materials collected by the friends of the ABA exclusively for the benefit of the Belarusian communities in the US;

(v) Right of access to the minutes of the meetings of the General Board and the Presidium;

(vi) Right to initiate events and participate in all the events organized by ABA Members;

(vii) Right to use the name of the ABA for organizing events and voluntary projects by the rules agreed by the other Members of the General Board (specify Section);

(viii) Duty to act by the Constitution and the Bylaws of the ABA, as well as to work for the benefit and development of the Belarusian diaspora in the U.S.;

(ix) Duty to promote the implementation of the goals and objectives of the ABA, as prescribed in Section 2.2 of the Constitution ;

(x) Duty to participate actively in the IOU and ABA Committees;

(xi) Duty to honestly abide by the decisions of the General Board;

(xii) Duty to honestly represent IOUs locally and globally;

(xiii) Duty to honestly represent IOU interests in the General Board;

(xiv) Duty to pay the membership fees on time.

2.2.6. Revocation of Membership of Members of the General Board

(i) Withdrawal from the ABA shall be voluntary;

(ii) If a member's activities harm the interests of ABA or the U.S., or are in violation of the ABA Constitution or the Bylaws, or perform their duties in bad faith, his/her membership in the ABA General Board shall be revoked by a vote under Section 3.5 of the Bylaws. The revocation of membership in the General Board may take place only after a presentation of appropriate evidence and a discussion.

(iii) Membership shall be terminated in cases of non-payment of annual dues without a valid reason and following two electronic written reminders. Membership shall be automatically reinstated upon full payment of the outstanding balance.

(iv) All the Rights and Responsibilities of the Member are suspended from the moment the decision on revocation of his/her membership in the General Board takes effect.

(v) A member of the General Board must be notified about the revocation of his/her membership in the General Board and the grounds within five (5) business days from the date of the decision of the General Board.

(vi) A member of the General Board may appeal the decision to revoke his/her membership within ten (10) business days and provide the General Board with supporting evidence. The General Board shall review the appeal within ten (10) business days of receiving it.

(vii) If the appeal is denied, the decision to revoke membership in the General Board becomes final.

(viii) If the appeal is approved, all the rights and responsibilities of the Member of the General Board are restored.

(ix) If a member of the General Board does not participate in at least half of the meetings of the General Board during a calendar year, any of the representatives of the General Board has the right to initiate proceedings to revoke his/her membership and elect a new member of the General Board;

(x) If the IOU represented by a member of the General Board ceases to exist or no longer meets the criteria specified in Sections 2.2.2 - 2.2.3 of the Bylaws, the ABA must consider expelling said member from the General Board at a regular meeting of the General Board.

2.3. Supporters

Any U.S. resident may become a Supporter of the Association upon fulfilling the following conditions:

2.3.1. Requirements for Supporter Candidates

To become a Supporter, a candidate shall:

(i) Meet the criteria described in Article III of the Constitution;

(ii) Apply for Membership by email or via the official ABA website, or hand a letter of application in writing to any Member of the General Board;

(iii) Support the goals and objectives set out in Section 2.2 of the Constitution at the time of application and in the future;

(iv) Pay membership fees in the amount of $100 (one hundred U.S. dollars) must be paid no later than 48 hours after receiving a letter from the Secretary confirming the individual's acceptance as a Supporter. The Secretary is responsible for verifying that the dues have been paid in the amount established by the General Board. If the dues are not paid within the specified period, the application will be canceled.

2.3.2. Becoming Supporters

(i) The Candidate's application for Supporter status shall be reviewed by the Presidium of the General Board.

(ii) The Secretary shall provide a monthly report to the ABA General Board regarding decisions on pending applications.

(iii) Candidates must be informed of the decision regarding their application, whether approved or denied, within 15 business days.

2.3.3. Rights and Responsibilities of Supporters

(i) The right to participate in and be elected to working groups or projects of the Association;

(ii) The right to participate in the annual General Meeting, with the ability to submit proposals or comments regarding the activities of ABA and its Committees;

(iii) The right to take part in the work of Committees;

(iv) The right to access ABA resources and materials, following regulations established by the General Board;

(v) The right to vote in elections for the Presidium, provided the individual has been a Supporter Member of the Association for more than ten (10) months from the date of fees payment;

(vi) The right to receive a discount on paid events organized by members of the ABA General Board. The discount amount is determined by the organizing Board Member and must not be less than 5% of the ticket price.

(vii) The responsibility to actively support and promote the mission and goals of the Association as outlined in Section 2.2 of the Constitution;

(viii) The responsibility to pay annual fees of $100 (one hundred U.S. dollars) upon joining, and annually thereafter by October 1st of each year. Fees are non-refundable under any circumstances, including removal from Supporter membership by Section 2.3.4 of the Bylaws.

2.3.4. Suspension of Supporter Membership

(i) Suspension of Supporter Membership may occur voluntarily or by resolution of the General Board.

(ii) Membership shall be terminated in cases of non-payment of annual fees without a valid reason and following two electronic written reminders. Membership shall be automatically reinstated upon full payment of outstanding fees.

(iii) Upon the issuance of a decision to suspend membership by the General Board, all rights and obligations of the Supporter Member shall be suspended.

(iv) The Supporter Member must be notified of the suspension and its reasons within five (5) business days from the date of the decision by the General Board.

(v) In the event of suspension, the Supporter Member may appeal the decision within ten (10) days and submit additional evidence to the General Board, depending on the reason for suspension. The General Board must

review the appeal and re-evaluate the suspension decision within ten (10) days of receiving the appeal.

(vi) If the General Board upholds the suspension following the review, the decision shall be final and not subject to further appeal.

(vii) In the event of a reversal of the suspension decision, all rights and obligations of the Supporter Member shall be fully restored.

2.4. Supporters' Donations and Fees

(i) Any Member of ABA has the right to make voluntary donations in support of the Association's activities, in any amount and at any frequency of their choosing.

(ii) The General Board, by a majority vote, has the right to introduce membership dues/fees and amend their amount and payment frequency.

(iii) The amount and frequency of membership dues may not be changed more than once every two (2) years.

(iv) Upon submission of a written or electronic request addressed to the Secretary of ABA, and based on valid reasons such as financial hardship, unemployment, or other extenuating circumstances, the amount of dues may be reduced or waived by decision of the General Board, provided supporting documentation is submitted.

(v) Beginning October 1, 2024, annual membership dues are established at one hundred U.S. dollars ($100). Dues must be paid no later than October 1st of each year.

SECTION 3 General Board

3.1. General Board

The General Board is the central collegial governing and legislative body and performs its duties under the Constitution and the Bylaws of the ABA.

3.2. Composition

(i) The General Board consists of IOU Representatives and other Members of the General Board who meet the criteria described in Section 2.2.2 of the Bylaws.

(ii) Each IOU may have only one (1) Representative and one (1) Deputy Representative on the General Board. The Representative shall select the Deputy Representative and submit their nomination to the General Board for consideration. The Representative may independently terminate the appointment of their Deputy Representative.

(iii) Members of the General Board shall serve without a fixed term of office until they voluntarily resign or are removed from the General Board.

(iv) If an IOU Representative's appointment is terminated, the appointment of their Deputy Representative shall also be terminated. The IOU may elect a new Representative.

3.3. Activities of the General Board

3.3.1. Competencies General Board

The competences of the General Board include:

(i) modification of the Bylaws;

(ii) acceptance and suspension of Supporters;

(iii) election and suspension of the Members of the Presidium;

(iv) acceptance of reports of working groups and Committees of the ABA;

(v) determination of the direction of the ABA activities and the Committees;

(vi) collaboration with other non-profit and for-profit projects and organizations;

(vii) determination of the amount of the ABA membership fees (limited to once a year);

(viii) management, distribution, and control of the ABA funds;

(ix) resolving disputes between the members of the ABA;

3.3.2. Rights and Responsibilities

(i) Right to take all the measures to ensure the development and growth of the ABA, as well as the achievement of its goals and objectives as prescribed in Section 2.2 of the Constitution;

(ii) Right to request reports on the activities of the Presidium and the Committees;

(iii) Duty to contribute to the implementation of the goals and objectives of the ABA as prescribed in Section 2.2 of the Constitution;

(iv) Duty to review the issues prescribed in Section 3.3.1 of the Bylaws.

3.4. Meeting of the General Board

3.4.1. The General Board meets regularly in person or via video/audio communication to discuss general coordinating issues, review the reports of the Committees and the working groups, as well as other issues related to the activities of the organization.

3.4.2. The General Board shall determine the frequency of the meetings annually.

3.4.3. An extraordinary meeting to resolve urgent matters can be convened by 1. the President, 2. the Vice-President in the event of the President's unavailability to perform his/her duties, 3. any General Board Member with the consent of the majority of the General Board Members.

3.4.4. The period between the preceding and succeeding Meetings shall not exceed one (1) month.

3.4.5. The date of the Meeting and the agenda shall be determined by the overwhelming majority of the Members of the General Board, and all the General Board Members shall be notified about them no later than four (4) days before the Meeting.

3.4.6. The meeting shall be valid if more than half of the General Board Members (quorum) are present. When counting the total number of the General Board Members at a General Board Meeting, an IOU Representative and his/her Deputy shall be considered as one (1) Member.

3.4.7. In the absence of a quorum, the Meeting of the General Board shall be postponed by no more than two weeks, and the new date shall be determined by the majority of those present at the Meeting or the moderator of the Meeting.

3.4.8. The Moderator of the Meeting may be any volunteer from among the General Board Members present at the Meeting, provided that the majority of the participants present at the Meeting support his/her candidacy.

3.4.9. Minutes shall be maintained for the General Board Meeting, which shall be published no later than three (3) business days from the date of the Meeting.

3.4.10. The transcript shall record

(i) the place and time;

(ii) The Members present at the Meeting;

(iii) The agenda of the Meeting;

(iv) Issues put to the vote and voting results;

(v) Any additional information and decisions.

3.4.11. Minutes of the Meeting shall be retained by the Secretary. In the absence of the Secretary or the latter's inability to perform the duties, a volunteer from among the General Board Members, supported by the majority of the General Board Members present at the Meeting, may record the Meeting.

3.4.12. The Elected Moderator of the Meeting checks and approves the Minutes.

3.5. Voting Procedure

Voting is the principal tool of the General Board for making decisions.

3.5.1. The decisions of the General Board shall be valid when more than half of the General Board Members take part in the voting.

3.5.2. The General Board adopts resolutions and decisions by majority vote (50% +1). An exception is the vote on amendments to the Constitution, which can be adopted only with the consent of two-thirds (2/3) of the entire General Board.

3.5.3. In the event of a tie, the vote of the President or the Vice-President, in the absence of the President, shall be decisive.

3.5.4. Every General Board Member shall vote personally. No General Board Member shall be allowed to transfer the voting right to anyone unless he/she is an

IOU Representative who can transfer it only to his/her Deputy Representative.

3.5.5. The elected IOU Representative and the IOU Deputy Representative are interchangeable. There shall only be one vote per IOU.

3.5.6. In the event of a conflict between the votes of the IOU Representative and his Deputy, the vote of the IOU Representative shall be decisive.

3.5.7. Other forms of voting are possible at the General Board Meeting regarding operational issues, for which these Bylaws make no provisions. In such cases, any General Board Member may request a discussion of the issue at a meeting of the General Board before the voting procedure.

SECTION 4 ABA Presidium

ABA Presidium is a permanent executive and representative body of the ABA, which performs its responsibilities under the Constitution and the Bylaws of the ABA.

4.1. Composition

The Presidium consists of the following members:

(i) President,

(ii) Vice-President,

(iii) Secretary,

(iv) Treasurer, and

(v) Public Relations Officer.

4.2. Elections and Terms of the Presidium

4.2.1. The offices of the ABA Presidium shall be filled by General Board Members via elections approved at the General Board Meeting.

4.2.2. The members of the Presidium shall perform their duties free of charge for a two-year term or until a successor is elected.

4.2.3. The Secretary shall make a list of candidates for the offices of the Presidium based on proposals submitted by the General Board Members.

4.2.4. The General Board has the right to terminate the powers of the Presidium or its members before the expiration of the term.

4.2.5. If a Member of the Presidium has failed to participate in half or more than half of the Presidium meetings in 12 months without a reasonable excuse, any Member of the Presidium may propose his/her termination from the Presidium and the election of a new Member of the Presidium.

4.2.6. The Presidium elections are considered valid if more than half of the General Board members and any number of Supporter Members participated in the vote.

4.2.7. Candidates for the positions of President, Vice-President, and Public Relations Officer of the ABA must have working proficiency in both Belarusian and English and be willing to publicly represent the ABA, participate in interviews, public speaking engagements, and public events, and communicate with the media on behalf of the organization.

4.3. The Activities of the Presidium

4.3.1. Monitoring and coordinating the implementation of the Bylaws;

4.3.2. Developing and discussing the main activities of the ABA, long-term programs, and projects;

4.3.3. Developing a structure and an assortment of cases, as well as instructions for record-keeping, an order for current and archival documents;

4.3.4. Carries out financial and economic activities, disposes of funds managed by the ABA, by a procedure approved by the General Board;

4.3.5. Approving the annual accounting report;

4.3.6. The Presidium shall have no right to exercise any financial and monetary operations without the decision of the General Board.

4.3.7. The Presidium shall not review issues which, by the ABA Bylaws, are a part of the competence of the General Board.

4.4. Presidium Meetings

4.4.1. The Presidium Meetings are held as needed, but at least once a quarter.

4.4.2. The President of the ABA coordinates the work of the Presidium, conducts its meetings, ensures the keeping of the minutes, their registration, and signs the minutes of the meetings. In the absence of the President, the Presidium Meeting is chaired by the Vice President. In the absence of the Vice President, the Meeting is chaired by a Presidium Member, by the decision of the Presidium Members present at the meeting.

4.4.3. At the request of any Presidium Member or 20 (twenty) percent or more of the General Board Members, the President shall be obliged to hold a Presidium meeting within two weeks of receiving a written request indicating the issues for urgent consideration;

4.4.4. The President may refuse to convene a Presidium Meeting only if the issue proposed for review is beyond the competence of the Presidium or does not comply with the requirements of the Bylaws.

4.4.5. Presidium Meetings are valid only if more than half of the Presidium Members and the President (quorum) are present.

4.4.6. In the absence of a quorum, the Presidium Meeting shall be postponed by no more than two weeks, and the new date shall be determined by the President or his/her deputy.

4.4.7. The resolutions and decisions of the Presidium are adopted by a majority vote (50% +1) of those present at the Meeting, subject to a quorum. In the event of a 50-50 tie, the vote of the President of the Meeting is decisive.

4.4.8. Every Presidium Member shall vote personally. No Presidium Member shall be allowed to transfer the voting right to anyone else.

4.4.9. The date of the Meeting and the agenda shall be determined by the overwhelming majority of the Presidium Members and shall be communicated to all the Presidium Members no later than four (4) days before the Meeting.

4.4.10. Minutes shall be kept at the Presidium Meeting and published no later than three (3) business days from the date of the Meeting.

4.4.11. The transcript shall record (i) the place and time; (ii) composition of the Members present at the Meeting; (iii) the agenda of the meeting; (iv) the questions put to vote and the voting results; (v) any additional information and decisions.

4.4.12. The President shall approve the Minutes of the Meeting and be responsible for its correctness and accuracy.

4.5. The Rights and Responsibilities of the Presidium Members

The General Board shall have the right to modify the Rights and Responsibilities of the Presidium Members as needed.

4.5.1. The President's Rights and Responsibilities

(i) Duty to represent the ABA at national and international levels before the authorities, institutions, and other organizations, by the Constitution, the Bylaws, and decisions General Board;

(ii) Responsibility for maintaining financial accounts.

(iii) Has the right to make disbursements from sponsor-locked funds without approval from the General Board.

(iv) Duty to report to the General Board on the work done and the activities of the ABA for the past period;

(v) Supervise and manage office work;

(vi) Right to evaluate the expediency of the expenses incurred as a result of the General Board Members' performance of their responsibilities.

4.5.2. The Rights and Responsibilities of the Vice President

(i) Duty to perform tasks assigned by the President;

(ii) In the event of the President's inability to perform his/her duties, the Vice President assumes the President's rights and responsibilities.

4.5.3. The Rights and Responsibilities of the Secretary

(i) Duty to keep the minutes of the Meetings of the General Board and Presidium;

(ii) Duty to organize the documents, minutes, and reports;

(iii) Duty to maintain the archives of the General Board in good order;

(iv) Duty to keep a calendar of urgent matters;

(v) Duty to perform tasks assigned by the President.

4.5.4. The Rights and Responsibilities of the Treasurer

(i) Duty to maintain book-keeping for the income and the expenses;

(ii) Duty to manage the financial accounts;

(iii) Provides receipts of funds and pays the bills for the expenses approved by the General Board;

(iv) Has the right to make payments from target funds without approval from the General Board (sponsor locked funds);

(v) Duty to prepare an annual financial report for the U.S. tax authorities and the General Administration.

4.5.5. The Rights and Responsibilities of the Public Relations Officer

(i) Duty to devise and implement an informational and advertising strategy;

(ii) Duty to participate in the preparation of presentations, writing, and sending out press releases;

(iii) Duty to review the communication from the media and other organizations;

(iv) Duty and right to organize and attend promotional events, such as press conferences, open days, exhibitions, tours, and presentations:

(v) Duty to analyze the coverage of the ABA activities in the media.

(vi) Right to make public speeches, give interviews, press conferences, and presentations on behalf of the ABA;

(vii) Right to interact with the public, the media, and organizations on behalf of the ABA.

4.6. Suspension of Presidium Members' Duties

(i) A Presidium member may voluntarily resign from office before the expiration of the term.

(ii) If a Presidium Member fails to perform his/her responsibilities without a reasonable excuse, the General Board shall remove him/her from office before the expiration of the term by a majority vote and fill the vacant position for the remainder of the term with another General Board member at a General Board Meeting.

SECTION 5 Committees

A Committee is an executive body of the ABA, which operates permanently in a designated direction (Section 5.3.2 of the Bylaws).

5.1. Composition

A Committee consists of General Board Members and Supporters.

5.2. The mechanism of the formation of the Committee.

The Committee may be established by any Member of the General Board.

5.2.1. At a meeting of the General Board, a member of the General Board has the right to propose the establishment of a new Committee.

5.2.2. The member of the General Board shall explain the direction of the activities and the expediency of the proposed Committee.

5.2.3. The decision to establish a Committee is made by voting at a General Board Meeting, by Section 3.5 of the Bylaws.

5.3. The Chairman of a Committee

5.3.1. The General Board member who initiated the formation of a new Committee automatically becomes the Chairman of the said Committee in the absence of another in the General Board.

5.3.2. When there is more than one candidate available for the position of Chairman of the Committee, the General Board shall appoint the member with a majority vote, by Section 3.5 of the Bylaws.

5.3.3. The Rights and Responsibilities of a Committee Chairman:

(i) Right to form a Committee consisting of General Board Members and Supporters;

(ii) Duty to make reports on the activities at each General Board Meeting;

(iii) Duty to elect a Deputy from among the General Board Members;

(iv) Duty to develop an area of activity of the Committee.

5.3.4. Deputy-Chairman of the Committee shall automatically become Chairman of the Committee if the latter is unable to perform his/her duties;

5.3.5. A General Board member has the right to be a member of more than one Committee.

5.3.6. The General Board has the right to propose electing a new Committee Chairman at any time.

5.4. The mechanism of the dissolution of a Committee

5.4.1. The General Board has the right to dismiss a Committee by vote if it

(i) has lost its expediency,

(ii) has had no activities for three or more months.

5.4.2. All the materials, files in electronic or written form, shall be transferred to the ABA Archives and shall not be subject to destruction.

5.5. Access to materials

5.5.1. Any Supporter who is a member of a Committee shall have access to the materials, files of said Committee in electronic or written form;

5.5.2. Any General Board Member shall have access to the materials and files of any Committee in electronic or written form.

SECTION 6 Change and Entry into Force

6.1. This Bylaws may be amended or changed at a General Board Meeting by a majority vote of the General Board Members personally present or by transferring voting in a written or electronic form provided that the decision to make amendments or changes was made at a prior General Board Meeting and a special working group created a draft of the changes for review;

6.2. These Bylaws shall take effect after being adopted at a General Board Meeting starting on 03.03.2020. All previous versions of the Constitution shall become void.