

AMERICAN INDIAN SOCIETY OF THE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. METROPOLITAN AREA

CONSTITUTION  
AS AMENDED SEPTEMBER 1, 2010

**PREAMBLE**

We, the members of many American Indian Tribes of the United States of America, acknowledge with gratitude and respect the divine guidance of the Great Spirit to preserve, protect and enhance the continuum of our unique and distinctive cultures and traditions; to promote Indian values of friendship: generosity; courage; respect; comity; and cultural awareness and sensitivity among all members; to enlighten and enrich the general public's understanding of the diversity and richness of Indian life, as well as the history and contributions American Indians have made and continue to make to our society; to promote health education, charity, and other civic duties that will contribute to the social advancement and well-being of the members of the society; and to foster the continued loyalty and allegiance to the Indian Nations and the flag of the United States of America, do hereby ordain and establish this Constitution for the American Indian Society of the Washington, D. C. Metropolitan area.

**ARTICLE I  
NAME AND HEADQUARTERS**

The name of the organization shall be the American Indian Society of Washington, D.C., with headquarters in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan area.

**ARTICLE II  
MEMBERSHIP AND DUES**

**Section 1. MEMBERSHIPS.** Membership into the American Indian Society (Society) shall be to any American Indian and any other persons interested in the American Indian and shall consist of three (3) types of membership:

a. **INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP.** American Indians and other persons interested in the American Indian.

b. **FAMILY MEMBERSHIP.** Including spouses and immediate family members and children under twenty-one (21). Each family member is entitled to individual membership voting rights.

c. HONORARY MEMBERSHIP. The Society shall accept for honorary membership any individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the Society. The Executive Board shall approve these people before acceptance by the Membership.

**Section 2. DUES.** Annual Membership dues shall be payable as described in the By-Laws. Memberships are for one year beginning on January 1st through December 31st.

**Section 3. RESIGNATION.** Any member may resign or revoke their membership in the Society by submitting a signed letter to that effect. A resigned member desiring to be reinstated must submit a written request to be voted on by the general membership at the next monthly meeting.

### **ARTICLE III NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Nomination and Election of the Officers of the American Indian Society shall take place at the monthly meeting in September bi-annually. Elected Officers shall serve in the capacity elected for two (2) years beginning upon election. These officers shall serve without compensation by the Society.

**Section 1. NOMINATIONS.** Nominations for the President, First Vice-President (Administration), Second Vice-President (Promotional Activities), Treasurer, and Secretary shall be made from the floor. Only members in good standing who are 21 years of age or older shall qualify for nomination or election.

**Section 2. ELECTIONS.** The President, First Vice-President (Administration), Second Vice-President (Promotional Activities), Treasurer, and Secretary shall be elected by a majority of all members present and voting.

**Section 3. VOTER ELIGIBILITY.** Each individual member in good standing who is 18 years of age or over is entitled to one vote. No proxy votes will be allowed.

### **ARTICLE IV EXECUTIVE BOARD**

The elected officers shall be known as the "Executive Board" of the Society and shall consist of five (5) elected positions, each of whom shall have voting rights.

**Section 1. MEMBERSHIP.** The Executive Board shall consist of the President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary. The Executive Board shall serve until their terms in office are completed.

**Section 2. MEETINGS.** The Executive Board shall meet within two (2) weeks after election and within six (6) months to ensure and enforce any programs needing assistance or guidance and electing the chairpersons for the various standing committees of the Society.

The Executive Board shall meet when immediate action needs to be taken on behalf of the Society and on such other occasions as shall be determined upon by the majority of the members of the Board.

**Section 3. QUORUM.** A quorum shall consist of three (3) regular members of the Executive Board and must be present at any meeting called requiring immediate action.

**Section 4. POWERS.**

a. During intervals between regular meetings of the Society, the Executive Board shall act for the Society in any way in which the membership authorizes it to act.

b. The Executive Board may authorize the expenditure of funds not-to-exceed \$250.00, unless approved by a full quorum, when it is in the best interest of the Society and only in accordance with the established policy of the Society.

c. The Executive Board shall be authorized to appoint a chairperson for each standing committee.

d. The Executive Board shall have the authority to create such additional committees as shall be needed. It shall review all activities and decisions of such committees.

e. Any actions taken by the Executive Board shall be immediately reported to the Secretary who will inform the membership; provided, that no action of the Executive Board shall be contrary to this Constitution and By-Laws.

f. The Executive Board will also consult, negotiate, and conclude any agreements or contracts with persons or organizations on behalf of the Society.

g. The Executive Board shall establish and approve criteria for an Emergency Fund Program for members of the Society or any Indian organization requesting assistance providing there are funds available.

**Section 5. PROPERTY UTILIZATION.** The Executive Board shall establish written guidelines for the membership should they wish to use property belonging to the organization.

**Section 6. ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS.** The Executive Board can purchase, take by gift, bequest or other, own, hold, manage, operate and dispose of property, both real and personal and not inconsistent with our Constitution and By-Laws.

## **ARTICLE V MEETINGS**

**Section 1. ANNUAL.** There shall be an annual event of the American Indian Society in August of each year to commemorate the anniversary of the founding of the Society.

**Section 2. MONTHLY.** The Society meetings are to be held monthly and the first (1<sup>st</sup>) Wednesday of each month is designated as the regular meeting date. During intervals between regular meetings of the Society, the Executive Board shall act for the membership.

## **ARTICLE VI NON-PROFIT STATUS**

The Society is not organized for profit, and no part of our net earnings will inure to the benefit of any member or individual. In the event of the Society's dissolution, all assets of the Society will be given to some other non-profit Indian-interest organization.

## **ARTICLE VII REFERENDUM**

By majority of all eligible members present and voting in such referendum shall be conclusive and binding by the Society.

## **ARTICLE VIII CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS**

This Constitution may be amended by a majority vote of all eligible members present and voting. Any member of the Society may submit proposed amendments for consideration by the membership for adoption or rejection.

**ARTICLE IX  
CERTIFICATION OF ADOPTION**

The original Constitution was adopted on August 3, 1966, in Washington, D.C. The Constitution was formally amended on May 12, 1992, and September 4, 2002. Amendments made to this Constitution were submitted to the American Indian Society membership for adoption at meetings held on, 1992, September 4, 2002, and March 5, 2003.

**ARTICLE X  
CERTIFICATION OF AMENDMENTS**

The foregoing Constitution was formally amended by the majority votes of the members present at a meeting of the American Indian Society and became effective on May 12, 1992.

The foregoing Constitution was formally amended by unanimous vote of a quorum of Executive Board Members at a special emergency meeting of the Executive Board of the American Indian Society held on August 13, 2002, and was adopted and became effective on September 4, 2002, by the majority votes of the members present at a meeting of the American Indian Society.

The foregoing Constitution was formally amended by the majority votes of the members present at a meeting of the American Indian Society and became effective on March 5, 2003.

The foregoing Constitution was formally amended by the majority votes of the members present at a meeting of the American Indian Society and became effective on September 1, 2010.

**ARTICLE XI  
APPROVAL**

Approval of these revised articles to the American Indian Society's Constitution.

I, Michael Nephew, President, do hereby approve the Constitution of the American Indian Society, effective as of this date.

September 1, 2010  
Date

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Michael D. Nephew, President

ATTEST:

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Cathi Hill, Secretary