

# **TEXAS CHIEF DEPUTIES ASSOCIATION BY-LAWS**

**Revised: June 11, 2015**

## **ARTICLE I – GENERAL**

### **Section 1. Name**

This organization is established under the laws of the State of Texas and shall be known as the TEXAS CHIEF DEPUTIES ASSOCIATION.

### **Section 2. Mission Statement**

The TEXAS CHIEF DEPUTIES ASSOCIATION is organized to achieve the objectives of (1) promoting cooperation and communication between law enforcement agencies in the State of Texas: (2) promoting the exchange of ideas and information among law enforcement so that the safety and well-being of the citizens of the State of Texas will be assured.

### **Section 3. Limitation of Methods**

The TEXAS CHIEF DEPUTIES ASSOCIATION shall be non-profit, nonpartisan, and non-sectarian and shall take no part in, or lend influence or facilities, either directly or indirectly, to the nomination, election or appointment of any candidate for political office in city, county, state, or national political race.

## **ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section 1. Eligibility**

The TEXAS CHIEF DEPUTIES ASSOCIATION shall make membership available to any reputable person who is presently serving, or has served, as a Chief Deputy to any Sheriff in the State of Texas.

## **Section 2. Application**

Application for membership shall be in writing, on forms provided for the purpose, and signed by the applicant. The Membership Committee shall review all applications and submit them to the Board of Directors with its recommendation. Approved applicants shall become a member upon payment of the regularly scheduled dues as provided in Section 3 of Article II.

## **Section 3. Dues**

Membership dues may be set annually by the Board Members. Retired charter member are exempt from dues.

## **Section 4. Voting**

Only Chief Deputies, Sheriffs, and former Chief Deputies paying minimum dues shall be entitled to vote. Retired charter members retain the right to vote.

## **Section 5. Honorary Membership**

Distinction in public affairs shall confer eligibility to honorary membership. Honorary members shall have all the privileges of members except the right to vote, and shall be exempt from payment of dues. The Board of Directors shall confer or revoke honorary membership by a majority vote.

## **Section 6. Associate Membership**

Nominations for membership must be submitted and addressed to the Chairman of the Membership Committee. Applicants must be recommended by an active Chief Deputy in the Association. Associate members may be any law enforcement personnel (active or retired).

Sustaining members may be any person or company recommended by an active Chief Deputy. Associate members may attend any Association function. Sustaining members may attend any Association function except those announced as "Peace Officers Only".

Associate membership dues may be set annually by the Board Members for an individual or company. All dues are to be deposited in the general fund of the Association. Associate members shall receive a membership card from the Texas Chief Deputies Association.

Sustaining members shall receive a certificate of membership from the Texas Chief Deputies Association.

Associate members shall have no voting rights.

Sustaining members shall have no voting privileges. Membership will be for one (1) year. Dues will be due at the same time as regular membership.

### **Section 7. Termination**

**A.** Any member may resign from the TEXAS CHIEF DEPUTIES ASSOCIATION upon written request to the Board of Directors.

**B.** Any member can be expelled by the Board of Directors, by a two-thirds vote, for good cause.

**C.** Any terminated member shall be expelled by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors, at a regularly scheduled meeting thereof, for conduct unbecoming a member of the TEXAS CHIEF DEPUTIES ASSOCIATION or prejudicial to the aims or repute of the TEXAS CHIEF DEPUTIES ASSOCIATION, after notice and opportunity for a hearing are afforded the member complained against.

## **ARTICLE III – MEETINGS**

### **Section 1. Fiscal Year**

The fiscal year of the TEXAS CHIEF DEPUTIES ASSOCIATION shall close on June 30th of each year.

### **Section 2. Annual Membership Meeting and Training Conference**

The annual Training Conference and General Membership Meeting of the TEXAS CHIEF DEPUTIES ASSOCIATION will be held during the month of June each year.

### **Section 3. Monthly Meetings**

Each district may hold monthly meetings at a time and place to be determined by the District Board of Directors. All other meetings of the TEXAS CHIEF DEPUTIES ASSOCIATION shall be at the call of the President and shall require attendance of a quorum.

### **Section 4. Additional Meetings**

**A.** General meetings of the TEXAS CHIEF DEPUTIES ASSOCIATION may be called by the President at any time or upon petition in writing of any thirty (30) members in good standing. Notice of such special meetings shall be given to each member at least five (5) days prior to the meeting.

**B.** Board meetings may be called by the President or upon written request, e-mail or conference call of three (3) members of the Board. The Board of Directors and all committees shall determine the most suitable time and the most central part of the state for meetings for the transaction of business excluding a meeting at the conference site prior to the annual conference. Monthly meetings of the directorate may be held and committee heads may be called to make reports to the board when necessary.

**C.** Committee meetings may be called at any time by the President or by the respective Committee Chairman.

## **ARTICLE IV - BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **Section 1. Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors shall be composed of 12 members, which shall consist of the President, the outgoing President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, 3rd Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Sergeant At Arms and four (4) members of the association. Board of Directors members, excluding elected or appointed officers, shall serve a two year term.

For greater representation, the President may, by and with the approval of the regular Board of Directors, appoint District Directors or advisors as associate members who are not entitled to voting privileges: the number to be determined by the Board annually. Associate Board members shall serve one year unless reappointed, which reappointment must be approved by the regular Board of Directors.

## **Section 2. Nomination**

The Board of Directors; excluding associate board members, shall be nominated for election by the Nominating Committee. The members nominated should have expressed their willingness to serve. The Nominating Committee shall work during the year in order to seek out potential candidates for nomination at the general membership business meeting held in June of each year. Additionally, any member in good standing may nominate, from the floor, any additional candidate at the time of elections. A member should not arbitrarily nominate someone from the floor unless they have determined that potential candidate's willingness to serve.

## **Section 3. Election of Directors**

The Board of Directors shall be elected by the entire voting membership present: each member of the TEXAS CHIEF DEPUTIES ASSOCIATION in good standing being entitled to one (1) vote.

The four (4) member elected Board of Directors shall serve a two year staggered term of office.

The District Directors, if any, shall be at the discretion of the district. Any District Directors shall be elected at the discretion of the district.

## **Section 4. Vacancies**

**A.** The office of any Director who shall be absent from three (3) consecutive meetings of the Board of Directors may be deemed vacant, at the discretion of the Board of Directors by a majority vote of those at any meeting thereof.

**B.** Vacancies on the Board of Directors or among the elected officers, shall be filled by the Board of Directors, by a majority vote, at the direction of the President during a called board meeting. The position will be filled at the next general membership meeting.

## **Section 5. Quorum**

Board of Directors meetings shall be attended by as many of the twelve (12) member Board as possible. At least seven (7) Board members will be required as a quorum in order to conduct Association business. Decisions by the Board of Directors will be by majority vote conducted during scheduled or specially called Board meetings.

## **ARTICLE V - OFFICERS**

### **Section 1. President**

The President shall preside over the meetings of the Board of Directors and the meetings of the general membership. The President's term shall be for one year. Upon conclusion of the term, the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President shall become the President of the Association. The outgoing President shall be an advisor to the incoming President for one year and shall be a voting member of the Board of Directors.

### **Section 2. Vice Presidents**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President shall serve a one year term of office. Upon conclusion of their terms, the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President will move up to President, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President shall move up to 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President shall move up to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President at the annual meeting in June of each year.

The Sergeant At Arms shall move up to 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President and serve a one year term of office.

### **Section 3. Election Proceedings**

The President shall appoint two (2) members to act as judges of the election proceedings and they shall count all ballots received at the annual general membership meeting. Nominees receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared winners of each office. In the event of a tie vote, the election shall be determined by lot under the direction of the judges of the election.

### **Section 4. Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall be elected by the general membership at the annual meeting in June of each year and serve a one-year term of office. The Treasurer shall be a voting member of the duly elected Board of Directors.

### **Section 5. Secretary**

The Secretary shall be elected in the same manner as the Treasurer and serve a one-year term of office. The Secretary shall be a voting member of the duly elected Board of Directors. The Secretary shall also serve in the capacity of Historian for the Association.

### **Section 5. Sergeant At Arms**

The Sergeant At Arms shall be elected in the same manner as the Treasurer and Secretary and serve a one-year term of office. The Sergeant At Arms shall be a voting member of the duly elected Board of Directors.

### **Section 6. Chaplain**

The Chaplain shall be an appointed position and will be appointed by the President. The Chaplain shall serve a one-year term of office.

### **Section 7. Other Offices**

Any other offices may be established as deemed necessary to the proper functioning of the TEXAS CHIEF DEPUTIES ASSOCIATION. These offices may be established by recommendation of the Board of Directors and approval by a majority of the membership. Term of office for any additional office established shall be one year.

## **ARTICLE VI - COMMITTEES AND DIVISIONS**

### **Section 1. Committees and Divisions**

The President, by and with the approval of the Board of Directors, shall appoint all committees and committee chair persons, and may create such other divisions as will facilitate the work of the organization. The President and the Vice Presidents shall be ex-officio members of all committees and divisions. All committee and division organizations will be subject to and governed by these By-Laws.

### **Section 2. Testimony**

Once committee action has been approved by the Board of Directors, it shall be incumbent upon the Committee Chairman, or, in his absence, whom he designated from his committee as being familiar with the issue, to give testimony or make presentations before the general membership at the annual meeting in June. Committee Chairmen shall fully inform the President of their committee's progress, during the year, prior to each quarterly Board of Directors meetings.

## **ARTICLE VII - FINANCES**

### **Section 1. Funds**

All money paid to the TEXAS CHIEF DEPUTIES ASSOCIATION shall be placed in a general operating fund, except that money subscribed or contributed for a specific purpose shall be placed in a separate fund for such purpose.

### **Section 2. Disbursement**

No obligation or expense shall be incurred and no money shall be appropriated or paid except with regulations adopted by the Board of Directors.

### **Section 3. Fiscal Year**

The fiscal year of the TEXAS CHIEF DEPUTIES ASSOCIATION shall close on June 30<sup>th</sup> each year.

## **ARTICLE VIII - PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE**

### **Section 1. Amendments**

These By-Laws may be amended by a majority of the members voting at the general membership meeting of the organization or by ballot provided by the TEXAS CHIEF DEPUTIES ASSOCIATION on instruction from the Board of Directors. Notice of any proposed changes must be presented in writing to the association membership during the annual business meeting in June. A majority vote of the general membership will be required before any proposed by-law changes will become effective.

### **Section 2. Districts**

The TEXAS CHIEF DEPUTIES ASSOCIATION originally divided the State into sixteen (16) Districts. The Districts are designed to enable monthly meetings of area Chief Deputies and maintain a flow of information between law enforcement agencies. Members who reside in a district may attend meetings in other districts if it is more convenient. The attached map is the division of the sixteen (16) Districts.