

**NATIONAL LATINO PEACE OFFICER'S ASSOCIATION
VENTURA COUNTY CHAPTER
BY-LAWS**



ARTICLE I

Name and address of the Association

SECTION 1. NAME: The name of this corporation (Association) is the National Latino Peace Officers' Association Ventura County Chapter, hereafter referred to as NLPOAVC.

SECTION 2. ADDRESS: The headquarters of the NLPOAVC shall be designated by the current board of directors.

ARTICLE II

Mission

The mission of the NLPOAVC is to function in accordance with its Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Standard Operating Procedures, and other official board of directors policies in safeguarding the associations' Nonprofit Public Benefit Tax Exempt 501 (c) (3) IRS charitable Corporation status and to Ensure equal opportunity in the administration of justice for our members and the communities we serve through leadership mentoring.

ARTICLE III

Goal

The goal of the NLPOAVC is to focus its resources to:

- Provide professional career development and EEO advocacy for its members.
- Network with the Latino community to reduce conflicts between law enforcement and residents.
- Provide scholarships and other support to students pursuing careers in law enforcement or related fields.
- Assist in community-based programs focused on crime reduction.
- Provide resources coupled with community efforts to advance the betterment of the communities we serve.

ARTICLE IV Membership

SECTION 1 Membership in this association includes six (6) categories: Regular (sworn peace officer), Associate (non-peace officer), Lifetime, Honorary, Student and Corporate:

- **Regular Member:** Any sworn criminal justice or law enforcement professional, active or retired, full time or reserve, who demonstrates dedication to the objectives of NLPOAVC. "Professional positions" are defined as federal, state, county or locally commissioned peace officers with powers to arrest as designated by the laws of the state in which they are employed.
- **Associate Member:** Any person who does not qualify as a regular member, but who identifies with and supports the objectives of NLPOAVC. The Board of Directors is charged with monitoring to assure that Associate Members do not comprise more than twenty percent (20%) of the membership. The aforementioned twenty percent limits conform to California Penal Code Section 146(c) and will be adjusted as needed to conform to California Law.
- **Lifetime Member:** Any regular member who has served as a local, regional, state or as national president qualifies for this type of membership. A minimum of 20 years are required to qualify. Lifetime members shall pay no dues and shall maintain full regular membership status.
- **Honorary Member:** A designation bestowed by the Board of Directors upon a person who has made exceptional contribution to NLPOAVC. Honorary members do not pay dues nor do they have the right to vote or hold elected office, with the exception of those who unless they also qualify as regular members.
- **Student Member:** Any person who is enrolled in high school and or college and is supportive of the goals and objectives of the NLPOAVC. A student member shall neither have voting privileges nor the right to hold office.
- **Corporate Member:** Any corporation that is supportive of the goals and objectives of NLPOAVC, and who the Board of Directors chooses to embrace as an advocate. Corporate Members may not vote nor hold office.

SECTION 2. Membership Dues: The amount of dues for membership shall be established by the Board of Directors. It will be an amount appropriate to meet the associations' obligations. Dues are required to be paid to the treasurer no later than March 15th. If dues are not received and confirmed by the treasurer by April 15th, the member is subject to the following:

- Suspension of benefits
- Benefits include, but are not limited to: training, insurance and use of the web site.
- Suspension of voting rights and the right to run for a board position.

ARTICLE V **Meetings**

SECTION 1. Board of Directors shall meet at least every other month. Additional meetings, if necessary, will be determined by the president and or by 2/3 of the Board of Directors. Notice of the meetings with agenda items shall be given no less than (30) days prior to said meetings

SECTION 2. Membership. The general membership shall meet once annually. Additional meetings (special meeting), may be called by 2/3 of the Board of Directors and/or by the president with approval of a simple majority of the BOARD. Notice of the meetings shall be given not less than thirty (30) days prior to the said meeting.

“General Members,” as referred to in these by-laws, are defined as: Regular, Associate, and Lifetime Members. General Member classification does not include Honorary, Student, or Corporate Members.

SECTION 3. Quorum.

- Board of Directors Meetings - Simple majority (50% plus one).

- General Membership Meetings - Simple majority of the members present and voting.

SECTION 4. Only board members, at board meetings, and general members, at membership meetings, in good standing shall be eligible to vote.

SECTION 5. Order of Business: The order of business for the annual meeting shall be as follows:

- Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation, Roll Call
- Reading of minutes of previous meeting
- Treasurer's report
- Reports & Resolutions
- Old Business
- New Business
- Nominating Committee - report of the names of those members who are candidates
- For an elected office.
- Election of Officers to this association
- Installation of officers (at annual banquet)

SECTION 6. Electronic Meetings: A meeting of the board of directors may be conducted by electronic transmission as long as members are properly notified of the electronic meeting and are afforded a reasonable opportunity to participate. A record of the meeting shall be maintained.

- Quorum requirements outlined in this article Section 3 shall apply to all electronic meetings.

ARTICLE VI
Board of Directors

SECTION 1. The Board of Directors shall consist of the officers elected to national office which will consist of the following:

- **President**
- **1st Vice President**
- **2nd Vice President**
- **Treasurer**
- **Secretary**
- **Sergeant at Arms**
- **Member at Large**

SECTION 2. Officers

- **PRESIDENT:** shall be a regular member and shall preside at all general membership and board meetings. He/she shall represent this association at all public and official functions.
- **1st VICE-PRESIDENT:** shall be a regular member and shall assist the president in any manner requested by the president, and, in his/her absence, the 1st Vice President shall act in his/her behalf during board meetings and public and official gatherings.
- **2nd VICE PRESIDENT:** shall be a regular member and shall assist the president in any manner requested by the president, and in the event the 1st Vice President is not available, the 2nd Vice President shall act in his/her behalf during board meetings and public and official gatherings.
- **TREASURER:** shall be responsible for the financial management of the association and shall keep all financial records current. The treasurer shall also maintain a current, complete and accurate record of all members of this association who are in good standing. Disbursements for this association shall be made by check, signed by the president and/or the treasurer. All records shall be open to any member of this association. An audit by an independent accredited public accounting firm shall be conducted at the request of 2/3 of the board of directors or at the request of 2/3 of the membership. The treasurer shall submit a written quarterly financial statement to the board. He/she shall submit a detailed financial statement to the general membership for the previous year.
- **SECRETARY:** shall keep a record of attendance, take minutes at general membership and board meetings and provide the minutes to the board within (15) days of such meetings.

- **SERGEANT AT ARMS**: shall assist the president to conduct the meetings in an orderly manner in compliance with the by-laws and or Robert's Rules of Order; as well as other duties as assigned. The Parliamentarian shall chair any committee related to the review and or amendment to the governing documents,
- **MEMBER AT LARGE**: shall assist the president as requested.

SECTION 3. Powers of the board of directors consist of administering NLPOAVC operations and responsibilities as they pertain to the goals and objectives of the association. Unless authorized by the board of directors, no officer, agent, or other individuals shall have any power to bind the association by contract or render it liable for any purpose or any amount. Contracts shall only be approved at Board of Director Meetings after discussion by a simple majority of the members present. The Secretary will notify the entire Board of Directors in writing that a contract was approved or disapproved. The Treasurer and one other Board of Directors member shall sign all approved contracts.

- The National Board of Directors collectively shall work as a committee to:
 - Seek financial resources necessary to enable the association to operate in a financially sound manner
 - Establish programs for networking with community-based organizations
 - Establish strategies for recruiting Latinos into Law enforcement as well as new NLPOA members.
 - Plan short and long term goals and establish methods to determine if such goals are being met.
 - Establish Guidelines for the association scholarship programs and disbursement of such funds needed to accomplish this goal.

ARTICLE VII

Elections

SECTION 1. Nomination Committee: shall be established by the president no less than (30) nor more than 60 days prior to elections on election years and should consist of at least three (3) members. No more than one member from any one department shall be appointed. The nominating committee is responsible for insuring that election information is published and made available for members seeking elected office.

SECTION 2. Only general members in good standing shall be entitled to make nominations and vote. No proxy allowed.

SECTION 3. The elections shall be by secret ballot.

SECTION 4. The term of office for board members shall be two years.

SECTION 5. Nominations from the floor shall be accepted.

ARTICLE VIII
Removal from Office

Elected officers or members of the board of directors may be removed from office by a 2/3 vote of the board for cause.

ARTICLE IX
Vacancies

SECTION 1. Whenever the president is unable to attend to his/her responsibilities, the 1st Vice-President shall serve as president.

SECTION 2. Vacancies, other than the offices of president and 1st Vice President: the president (with concurrence of the board) may fill vacancies as necessary by appointment.

ARTICLE X
Committees

SECTION 1. With concurrence of the, board, the president may appoint Members to committees. The Board shall have the power to overturn a president's appointment with a 2/3-majority vote of the board. The NLPOAVC may have the following ad-hoc committees:

- **PUBLICITY AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE** disseminates information regarding law enforcement issues consistent with policies and objectives of this association. Committee members shall assist the publication editor in developing and relaying pertinent information to the general membership.
- **FINANCIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE** audits this association's financial records. They will review expenditures and make recommendations on fiscal policies. The committee shall make a report to the general membership at the annual meeting.
- **BY-LAWS COMMITTEE** reviews the By-laws and makes recommendations on changes. The general membership at the annual training conference shall vote changes on.
- **SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE** establishes guidelines for the association's scholarship program to be utilized by the association in the distribution of scholarship funds.

ARTICLE XI
Finances

All monies of the association shall be placed in an appropriately established fund account in a creditable bank.

ARTICLE XII
Dissolution

On dissolution of this association, any funds remaining shall be distributed to one or more regularly organized and qualified charitable, educational, scientific, or philanthropic organizations to be selected by the NLPOA national board.

ARTICLE XII
Amendments

These by-laws may be amended or altered by a two-thirds vote of the majority of the general members in attendance at the annual training conference. The desired amendment shall be posted on the NLPOAVC website no less than 30 days prior to the General Membership vote.

ARTICLE XIV
Political Action

SECTION 1. NLPOAVC members shall not engage directly in any political activity. The Association shall not participate in the publication or distribution of statements in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.

ARTICLE XV
Logo

The NLPOA official branding logo uniting our members will be as described in the NLPOA National By-Laws.