

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 1

Name

The name of this organization shall be the Wyandotte County Bar Association.

ARTICLE II

Objects and Purposes

1. The purposes of this Association are to establish closer relationship and cooperation with the Kansas Bar Association, and through it with the American Bar Association; to exert and influence for good on the life of the community; to promote the efficient administration of justice and the constant improvement of the law; to elevate the standards of integrity, honor and courtesy in the legal profession; and to cultivate a spirit of brotherhood and good fellowship among its members.
2. The Code of Professional Responsibilities established by the Rules of the Kansas Supreme Court as the standard of professional conduct of attorneys in this state are hereby adopted and made a part of this constitution.

ARTICLE III

Membership

1. Eligibility. Any lawyer residing in Kansas who is a member of the bar of this state in good standing, may become a member of this Association upon application and payment of dues. All members of the Association in good standing as of January, 1983, shall have continuing membership upon the payment of dues herein provided.
2. Classes of Membership. The by-laws may provide for classes of membership.
3. Termination of Membership. Membership may be terminated by resignation, by non-payment of dues, or by expulsion by a three-fourths vote of the Board of Governors or of the members present at a meeting called for the purpose of considering the matter. There shall be opportunity for a hearing before a vote to expel is taken, and expulsion by the Board of Governors may be appealed to the membership.

ARTICLE IV

Officers

1. The officers of this Association shall be president, a vice-president, a secretary, and a treasurer.
2. Board of Governors. The management of the affairs of the Association shall be vested in a Board of Governors composed of the president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, immediate past-president, and four elected members of the Association.
3. Terms of Office. The president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer shall be elected for one-year terms at the annual meeting in the manner provided in the by-laws; two of the remaining four members of the Board of Directors shall also be elected at the annual meeting to serve two-year terms.

ARTICLE V

Committees

1. Standing Committees. Standing committees of this Association shall be a membership committee, grievances and ethics committee, program committee, public relations committee, continuing legal education committee, budget committee, and Law Day U.S.A. committee. Each committee shall consist of a chairman and as many members as the president shall designate, to be appointed by him. Unless otherwise designated in the by-laws, all committee appointments shall be for a one-year term. Duties of committees shall be specified in the by-laws.
2. Special Committees. The president may appoint special committees and define their duties. Special committees shall automatically cease to exist at the end of the term of office of the appointing president, unless continued by the new president.

ARTICLE VI**By-laws**

The Association shall adopt by-laws for the conduct of its affairs, in harmony with this constitution.

ARTICLE VII**Amendments**

This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at any annual meeting or at any special meeting called for the purpose, provided that written notice of proposed amendments shall have been mailed to members not less than ten days in advance of such meeting.

BY-LAWS

1. Annual Meeting. The annual meeting of this Association shall be held at a place and on a date to be selected by the Board of Governors. Time and place of the annual meeting shall be announced at least one month in advance in the official publication of the Association. At that meeting, annual reports of officers and committees shall be delivered and officers shall be elected.
2. Regular Meetings. Regular meetings shall be held monthly or bi-monthly at a time and place to be designated by the Board of Governors. Members shall be given ten days notice of regular meetings either by notice in the official publication of the Association or by mailing. Business may be transacted at such meetings if a quorum is present.
3. Special Meetings. Special meetings may be called by the president and shall be called by the secretary on request by any five members in writing. Members shall have ten days advance written notice of the time, place and object of the meeting.
4. Quorum. The presence of at least fifty members shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the proceedings.
5. Order of business. At the annual meeting the order of business shall be as follows:
 1. Reading of minutes of preceding meeting and communications.
 2. Report of the Board of Governors.
 3. Report of the Treasurer.
 4. Report of standing committees.
 5. Report of special committees.
 6. General business.
 7. Election of officers.
6. Dues. Annual dues shall be \$50.00 payable on or before January 1 for each calendar year. Members three months delinquent in dues may, in the discretion of the Board of Governors, be dropped from membership, but payment of dues to date shall entitle such persons to reinstatement.
7. Classification of Membership. Memberships in this Association shall be of three classes: active, honorary and life.
 - (a) Active members are those who have met the requirements of Article III, Section 1 of the Constitution of this Association, or who are serving as judges of courts situated in said county. Any active members of this Association who retire from the practice of law and who remain in good standing before the Supreme Court of Kansas may continue as active members.
 - (b) Any person licensed to practice law in Kansas, who cannot qualify as an active member, is eligible for honorary membership in this Association upon proper application and payment of dues.
 - (c) Any lawyer or other distinguished person chosen by the Board of Governors, subject to the approval of the Association, may be eligible for life membership upon such terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Board of Governors or the Association.
 - (d) Any person desiring to become a member, except life, shall make written application to: membership, setting forth the full name, business and residence address, and date of admission to practice before the Supreme Court of Kansas. This application shall be presented to the membership committee, which committee shall report and submit recommendation thereon at the next regular meeting. The report having been read and found favorable, the application shall be voted upon. Unless one-third of those present vote in the negative, the applicant shall be declared elected to membership.
 - (e) Life members shall be exempt from annual dues unless the Board of Directors or the Association shall provide otherwise.

- (f) Members of the Association while on active duty with the Armed Forces of the United States are considered members but are exempted from payment of dues.
- (g) Only active members shall be entitled to vote at any business meeting.
8. Professional Ethics. The canons of professional ethics adopted by the American Bar Association and as set forth in the code of Professional Responsibility by the Rules of the Supreme Court of Kansas, as from time to time amended, are hereby declared to be the standards required of members of this Association. Willful and repeated disregard of them shall be sufficient cause for expulsion from membership.
9. Officers
- (a) The president shall preside at all meetings of the Association and the Board of Governors. He shall perform all duties ordinarily incident to his office, and shall recommend such action as he deems proper.
- (b) The vice-president shall act as president in the absence of the president and shall perform such other duties as may be from time to time prescribed for him by the Board of Governors.
- (c) The secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of all meetings and of all other matters of which a record shall be deemed advisable by the Association. The secretary shall be required to turn over to his successor in office all the records and files of the Association that come into his possession.
- (d) The treasurer shall collect and disburse all funds upon voucher, and shall make such reports as shall be requested by the Association or its president; and, in addition thereto, he shall keep a membership roster, showing the date of admission, payment of dues, date of suspension or expulsion and reinstatement, and he shall on the first day of each month and at such other times as the secretary may request, advise the secretary of the status of the membership of the Association or of any individual member thereof. The treasurer shall be required to turn over to his successor in office all of the records and files of the Association that come into his possession.
10. Board of Governors. The Board of Governors shall have such powers as are normally exercised by such bodies, and shall have general charge of the affairs of the Association between meetings, with power to act.
11. Elections and Vacancy. The election of all officers and the Board of Governors, unless by unanimous vote, shall be by ballot. Any vacancy arising in office shall be filled by election by the Association at the next monthly or special meeting, and such officer shall serve until the next annual meeting; except if such vacancy is the office of president the same shall be automatically filled by the vice-president. Ballots may be cast on the day scheduled for any election, prior to the time of commencement of the meeting held for purpose of the election, the mechanism for which shall be established by the Board of Governors, and notification of which shall be established by the Board of Governors, and notification of which shall be given to the membership at least ten days in advance of the scheduled meeting.
12. Committees. It shall be the duty of the president, within thirty days from the date of his election, subject to the approval of the Board of Governors, to appoint from the members of the following standing committees to serve for a term of one year or until their successors are appointed.
- (a) A membership committee, consisting of its chairperson and as many members as the chairperson deems necessary, who shall solicit and receive all applications for membership in the Association, and investigate the candidates for membership.
- (b) A committee on grievances and ethics, consisting of its chairperson and as many members as the chairperson deems necessary, who shall be broadly representative of the Association, whose duty it shall be to investigate and hear grievances made against members of the Association and to hear and consider complaints as to the ethical conduct of any member of the Association and to recommend to the Board of Governors suspension or expulsion of any member of the Association. The committee shall also make recommendations as may from time to time become necessary, to the Board of Governors or the Association of questions pertaining to the ethics of the profession. All recommendations concerning the ethics within the professional shall be made in writing and shall be filed within the records of the Association as a permanent record and the committee shall, when requested by the Board of Governors, submit reports on the Association of any regular or special meeting thereof concerning complaints received, action taken or recommendations made. The committee shall have the right to form sub-committees for the purpose of considering any specific matter. All complaints made against a member of the Association shall be in writing and signed and verified by the complainant, and the members against whom the complaint is made shall be furnished a copy thereof with a notice of time and place of hearing which shall be held not less than ten days from date of service of said notice. This committee will conduct investigations into matters presented to this Association by the Office of the Disciplinary Administrator of the State of Kansas.
- (c) A program committee, consisting of its chairperson and as many members as the chairperson deems necessary, who shall be responsible for the programs and entertainment at all regular or special meetings or legal seminars of the Association, and shall arrange the details of all meetings.

- (d) A public relations committee, consisting of its chairperson and as many members as the chairperson deems necessary, who shall be responsible for the editing and publication of the Association's Newsletter, and who shall prepare for publication in the news media and shall otherwise disseminate information as to the activities of the Association and in all proper ways shall endeavor to cultivate the goodwill of the public toward the legal profession.
- (e) A committee on continuing legal education, consisting of its chairperson and as many members as the chairperson deems necessary, which will establish and be responsible for presenting to the membership sufficient continuing legal education programs each year to fulfill the minimum continuing education requirement of the Kansas Supreme Court. This committee will arrange speakers and materials for each continuing legal education program of the Association, seeking approval thereof for credit from the Kansas Supreme Court.
- (f) A budget committee, consisting of its chairperson and as many members as the chairperson deems necessary, who shall prepare a proposed budget for the forthcoming year to be submitted to the Board of Governors at the beginning of the fiscal year for their approval. The immediate past-treasurer shall be an ex-officio member without a vote.
- (g) A Law Day U.S.A. Committee, consisting of its chairperson and as many members as the chairperson deems necessary, who are charged with the presentation of a suitable observance with the programs of the American, Kansas, and other appropriate Bar Association.
13. Amendments. These by-laws may be amended by a majority vote of the active members of the Association present at any annual or regular meeting or at any special meeting call to that purpose, provided that notice of the proposed amendment of amendments, subscribed by the Board of Governors or by three members of the Association, shall be given at the last preceding regular meeting and notice shall be mailed to the membership at least twenty days prior to the meeting at which the vote will be held.
14. Reinstatement. Any member failing to pay association dues for any fiscal year of years may be reinstated once during his or her lifetime by payment of one year's dues. Thereafter, reinstatement shall be had only by payment of all dues in arrears at the time for which reinstatement is applied.

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