NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF MICHIGAN  
  
CONSTITUTION OF THE  
  
MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF GUIDE DOG USERS  
  
  
  
ARTICLE I. NAME  
  
  
  
The name of this organization shall be the Michigan Association of Guide Dog Users.  
  
  
  
ARTICLE II. PURPOSE  
  
  
  
The purpose of this organization shall be to educate the community about issues of guide dog users; to act as advocates for guide dog users; to educate the community about the capabilities and needs of the blind; to promote the general well-being of the blind in the State of Michigan and of the Nation; and to function as an integral part of the National Federation of the Blind and the National Association of Guide Dog Users.  
  
  
  
ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP  
  
  
  
Section One - Active Members  
  
At least fifty-one percent (51%) of the active members of this organization must be blind.  Active members shall have the right to vote, serve on committees, speak on the floor, and hold office.  
  
Section Two - Affiliation  
  
Membership in this organization assumes membership in the National Federation of the Blind of Michigan and the National Federation of the Blind.  Membership in this Organization constitutes membership in the National Association of Guide Dog Users.  
  
  
  
Section Three - Expulsion  
  
Any member may be expelled for violation of this Constitution or for conduct unbecoming a member of the National Federation of the Blind by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the active membership present and voting at any regular business meeting of this organization.   
Any person who feels that he/she has been unjustly expelled from this organization may appeal to the Board of Directors of the National Federation of the Blind of Michigan.  
  
  
  
  
  
ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS & THEIR DUTIES  
  
  
  
Section One - Election of Officers  
  
There shall be elected bi-annually at the State Convention in even numbered years a President and a Secretary. There shall be elected at the State Convention in odd numbered years a Vice President and a Treasurer.  The terms of these offices shall begin at   
the close of the regular business meeting at which they are elected and qualified for a term of two (2) years. Officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the membership present and voting.

There shall be no proxy voting. If no nominee receives a majority   
vote on the first ballot, the person receiving the fewest votes shall be dropped from the list of nominees and a second ballot shall be taken. This procedure shall continue until one of the nominees has received a majority vote from the membership present and   
voting.  
  
  
  
Section Two - Duties  
  
The duties of each officer shall be those ordinarily associated with that office. The President and Vice President must be blind and either a current guide dog user or between guide dogs to qualify for their office. Either the President or Vice-President shall   
preside over all meetings of this organization and shall be required to represent the division annually at the National Federation of the Blind of Michigan's State Convention.  
  
  
  
Section Three - Removal of Officers  
  
An officer may be removed from his/her office for violation of this Constitution or for conduct unbecoming an officer of the National Federation of the Blind by a majority vote of the Board of Directors of this organization. An Officer may also be removed for failure to properly execute the duties of his/her office. An officer may not be removed without the approval of the President of the National Federation of the Blind of Michigan, nor shall his/her removal from office automatically constitute expulsion from this organization (see ARTICLE III: Section Three). Any officer who feels that he/she has been unjustly removed from office may appeal to   
the Board of Directors of the National Federation of the Blind of Michigan.  
  
  
  
Section Four - Replacement of Officers  
  
Should an office become vacant during the course of a term due to removal in accordance with Section Three above, resignation, or any other reason, the President shall, with the approval of the Board of Directors, appoint a member to occupy the office until such   
time that the present term expires and elections are conducted. If for any reason the President should be removed, the Vice-President shall assume the duties of the President and shall, with the approval of the Board of Directors, appoint a member to   
occupy the now vacant post of Vice-President.  
  
  
  
ARTICLE V: BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
  
  
  
The Board of Directors of this organization shall consist of the four (4) constitutional officers and three (3) additional board members.  Two (2) of these Board members shall be elected at the State Convention in even numbered years and the remaining Board   
member shall be elected in odd numbered years.  Board members shall be elected and be bound by this Constitution in the same manner as is prescribed for the officers. The Board of Directors shall meet at the call of the President or on written call signed by any   
three (3) members of the Board. The Board of Directors shall advise the President and shall have charge of the affairs of the organization between meetings. A majority of the members of the Board must be present at any meeting to constitute a quorum to transact business. The Board of Directors may be polled by telephone or mail ballot on any issue, and a majority of the Board must be blind.  
  
  
  
ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS  
  
  
This organization shall hold regular meetings at the State Convention of the National Federation of the Blind of Michigan.  
  
  
ARTICLE VII: COMMITTEES  
  
  
The President may appoint such committees as he/she or the Board of Directors may deem necessary.  
  
  
  
ARTICLE VIII: AFFILIATION  
  
  
The Michigan Association of Guide Dog users shall be a Division of the National Federation of the Blind of Michigan, and the National Association of Guide Dog Users. This organization shall furnish to the President of the National Federation of the Blind of Michigan and the President of the National Association of Guide Dog Users annually, on or before June 1st, a list of the names and addresses of its members and elected officers. Furthermore, a complete financial report showing all financial transactions for the previous calendar year shall also be furnished to the President of the National Federation of the Blind of Michigan and the President of the National Association of Guide Dog Users on or before March 1st for appropriate accounting purposes and to comply with all 501(c)(3) Internal Revenue Service requirements. A copy of the Constitution of the Michigan Association of Guide Dog Users and of all amendments to the Constitution shall be sent to the President of the National Federation of the Blind of Michigan and the   
President of the National Association of Guide Dog Users immediately upon their adoption.  
  
The Michigan Association of Guide Dog Users shall not be a social organization, but shall formulate programs and actively work to promote the economic and social betterment of the blind. This organization shall comply with the provisions of the Constitution of the National Federation of the Blind of Michigan, the National Federation of the Blind, and the National Association of Guide Dog Users. All policy decisions of the National Federation of the Blind, the National Federation of the Blind of Michigan, or the National Association of Guide Dog Users, whether made by the National or State Convention or by the Board of Directors, are   
binding on this organization. Therefore, this organization shall affirmatively participate in carrying out such policy decisions. As a condition of affiliation, it is agreed by this organization that the National Federation of the Blind, whether by National or State Convention or by the Board of Directors, has the power to expel or discipline an individual member and to expel or reorganize a state affiliate, local chapter or division. In the event of reorganization, the assets of this organization belong to the reorganized Division, and the former Division shall dissolve and cease to exist. In the event no division is organized within a period of two (2) years, fifty percent (50%) of the funds shall become the property of the National Federation of the Blind of Michigan and fifty percent (50%) of the funds shall become the property of the National Association of Guide Dog Users.  
  
The name National Federation of the Blind, Federation of the Blind, Michigan Association of Guide Dog Users, National Association of Guide Dog Users, Association of Guide Dog Users, Association of Guide Dog Users, or any variant thereof is the property of the National Federation of the Blind and this organization, if it ceases to be a part of the National Federation of the Blind, for whatever reason, shall forfeit the right to use the name National Federation of the Blind, Federation of the Blind, Michigan Association of Guide Dog Users, Association of Guide Dog Users, or any variant thereof.  
  
  
  
ARTICLE IX: DUES  
  
  
  
The dues of this Association shall be an amount determined by the membership and in accordance with the constitutions and policies of the National Association of Guide Dog Users, the National Federation of the Blind of Michigan, and the National Federation of the   
Blind. No rights or privileges of membership are extended to any person who is delinquent in the payment of their dues.  Dues are for membership from Convention to Convention.  Any individual who becomes a new member within three (3) months of Convention shall   
retain membership until the following Convention.  N.B. This latter provision does not apply to previous members who are delinquent on their dues. Dues will be in the amount of $5  
  
  
  
ARTICLE X: DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS  
  
  
  
Section One - General Expenditures  
  
The funds of this organization shall be deposited in a bank selected by the Treasurer with the approval of the President. All financial obligations of this organization shall be discharged by check issued on written order of the President and signed by the Treasurer, or in his/her absence or incapacity, such check may be signed by the President.  
  
Section Two - Expenditure of Restricted Income  
  
Since this organization may, from time to time, engage in social activities for its membership or solicit funding for a particular purpose (i.e., acquisition of equipment, transportation or other service subsidies, etc.) for which the expenditure of such funds are both designated and restricted in the mind of the donors, the Treasurer shall maintain a separate accounting of such income and   
be accountable for expending these funds for their intended purpose on behalf of the Division.

Restricted/designated funding may include, but is not limited to, sponsorship of a social activity, gifts or bequests designated to a particular program by the donor, and funding secured in the form of a grant where the grantor has designated the utilization of such income as a condition to its receipt. If for any reason the Division is unable to utilize designated income for its intended purpose, (i.e., a sponsored social activity was cancelled), the Treasurer shall notify the donor that the Division was unable to comply with their request and inquire as to how the donor would wish us to dispose of the gift. If the donor so chooses to lift the restriction of the gift the Treasurer   
shall include the amount of the formerly restricted gift in his/her tally of "unrestricted" funding in the month following the dissolution of the donor's previous designation.  
  
Section Three - Discretionary Expenditures  
  
The President shall have the discretion and power to request or issue checks for any sum not to exceed an amount determined by the Board of Directors should it be deemed necessary without the approval of the Board of Directors.  
  
  
  
ARTICLE XI: DISSOLUTION  
  
  
In the event of the dissolution of this organization (for whatever reason) it ceases to be an affiliate of the National Federation of the Blind of Michigan, its assets shall be given to the National Federation of the Blind of Michigan to be held in trust for a reorganized Division.  In the event that no Division is reorganized for a period of two (2) years from the date this organization ceases to be a Division of the National Federation of the Blind of Michigan, the assets shall become the property of the National Federation of the Blind of Michigan.  
  
  
  
ARTICLE XII: AMENDMENTS  
  
  
This constitution may be amended at any regular meeting of the organization by an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the active members present and voting, provided the proposed amendment has been submitted in writing and read at the regular business meeting,   
and provided it is in compliance with the provisions of the Charter of Affiliation received from the National Federation of the Blind and with the policies of the National Federation of the Blind of Michigan.