

Northwest Gang Investigators Association

Constitution & Bylaws



Ratified: April 8, 1994
Amended: April 7, 2010
Effective: April 7, 2010

ARTICLE I
Name and Incorporation

- Section 1. **Name.** This Association shall be known as the Northwest Gang Investigators Association, or NWGIA; hereafter, the Association.
- Section 2. **Incorporation.** The Northwest Gang Investigators Association will be organized as a mutual benefit nonprofit corporation in accordance with Federal, State, and Local guidelines.

ARTICLE II
Objectives

- Section 1. **Objectives.** The objectives of this Association shall be:
- A. To further the advancement of gang enforcement, associated drug trafficking, associated street violence, and intelligence gathering, to a higher professional status.
 - B. The continued advancement in the techniques of prevention, supervision, enforcement, and re-entry, in the field of gang enforcement.
 - C. Fraternalism among fellow criminal justice professionals with unity expressed, implied, and practiced by each member.
 - D. Promotion of mutual cooperation in all areas of gang enforcement to include the open exchange of information.

ARTICLE III
Geographic Division

- Section 1. **Geographic Division.** The Association will be divided into four (4) distinct areas coinciding with the physical borders of the member States of Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington.
- A. The number of distinct areas may be expanded in the event membership in the Association is desired by persons of other States not currently represented in the Association and approved by a majority vote of the Executive Board.
 - B. Any State(s) or Provinces bordering a member State may petition the Executive Board for inclusion in the NWGIA provided that State(s) does not have an active operational Gang Officers Association already functioning in that State.
 - C. Any State(s) or Provinces bordering a member State, that desire inclusion in the NWGIA, that DO have an active operational Gang Association MUST include a Resolution to Join NWGIA and Dissolve the existing Gang Association.
 - 1. Such Resolution must be approved by the membership of the existing Gang Officers Association.
 - 2. Any funding, equipment, accounts, property (real or otherwise), attached to the dissolved Gang Officers Association will be absorbed by the NWGIA.

ARTICLE III
Geographic Division
(continued)

- Section 2. **Representation.** Each state will be represented by a Vice-President selected by the Executive Board from the membership from each respective member State.
- Section 3. **Regional Representation.** Each State as defined in Section 1 of this Article may be divided into no fewer than two (2) regions as determined by the Executive Board. These regions may be expanded as needed.
- Section 4. **Seceding from the Association.** Nothing in this Article prohibits a member State from secession from the Association. Such secession shall be in writing to the NWGIA Executive Board and shall state the reasons for secession.
- A. Any seceding member State that wishes to form their own Gang Investigators Association as in independent organization and secedes from the NWGIA under favorable circumstance will receive a proportionate amount of startup funding from the NWGIA based on the number of member States at the time of secession. (i.e.: 4 states, ¼ of the available liquid funds.)

ARTICLE IV
Officers, Staff and Regional Coordinators

- Section 1. **OFFICERS:** The officers of this Association shall consist of the following:
- EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** Hereafter, the Executive Board
- A. **President:** To be selected by the Executive Board. Also may be known as the Chief Executive Officer of the Association.
- B. **Vice-Presidents:** A Vice-President will be selected from each state represented in the Association and selected by the Executive Board. The Vice-Presidents will be represented in the following manner:
1. **Senior Vice-President:** After the President, the Executive Board member who has the longest time of Board service.
 2. **1st Vice-President:** After the Senior Vice-President, the Executive Board member who has the next longest time of Board service.
 3. **2nd Vice-President:** After the 1st Vice-President, the Executive Board member who has the next longest time of Board service.
 4. **3rd Vice-President:** The Executive Board members with the least amount of time of Board Service.
- C. The President, Senior Vice-President and 1st Vice-President will be the Trustees of the Association.

ARTICLE IV
Officers, Staff and Regional Coordinators
(continued)

CABINET:

- A. **Secretary:** To be selected by the Executive Board.
 - 1. The office of Secretary may be combined with the office of Treasurer.
- B. **Treasurer:** To be selected by the Executive Board.
 - 1. The office of Treasurer may be combined with the office of Secretary.
- C. **Publications Editor/Webmaster:** To be selected by the Executive Board.
- D. **Information Technology (IT) Administrator:** To be selected/hired by the Executive Board.

REGIONAL COORDINATORS:

- A. Regional Coordinators will be consistent with the needs of the member States but each member State will have no fewer than two regional coordinators.
- B. Regional Coordinators will be selected by the Executive Board.

ARTICLE V
Duties of Officers

- Section 1. **President.** It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings and conferences and to enforce all rules and regulations relating to the administration of the Association. The President shall call meetings of the Association and of the Executive Board when deemed necessary. The President shall have authority to appoint all committees and hire any service providers, subject to the approval, by majority vote, of the Executive Board. The President will serve as the chairman of the Executive Board.
- Section 2. **Vice-Presidents.** It shall be the duty of each respective Vice-President to represent the President in their respective state. The Vice-President will, in the absence of the President, or at the request of the President, perform all the duties of the President in the state where the regular meeting is held. The Vice-President will perform any other duties as designated by the President and/or the Executive Board.
- Section 3. **Secretary.** It shall be the duty of the Secretary to conduct official correspondence, keep a true record of all meetings, and render to the Executive Board a report of all Board meetings and any other duties as assigned by the President and/or the Executive Board.
- Section 4. **Treasurer.** It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to be in charge of all Association funds and assets, make financial statements to the regular membership meetings and any other duties as assigned by the President and/or the Executive Board.
- Section 5. **Publications Editor/Webmaster.** It shall be the duty of the Publications Editor to maintain an internet web page as defined in Article XIV of these bylaws, publish any newsletters, maintain an archive of Association publications, including conference photos and Association history, and perform any other duties as directed by the Executive Board.

ARTICLE V
Duties of Officers
(continued)

- Section 6. **Information Technology (IT) Administrator.** It shall be the duty of the Information Technology Administrator to manage all aspects of Information Technology including, but not limited to: the internet web page, conference technology/electronics, electronic mail administration, keeping the Executive Board apprised of any new technologies that may better serve the member agencies/Staates, maintain any NWGIA computers for the latest software/hardware upgrades, and any other Information Technology duties as may be deemed necessary by the Executive Board.
- Section 7. **Regional Coordinator.** It shall be the duty of a Regional Coordinator to represent the Association in their designated region, establish regional training seminars when appropriate to better serve the members of the Association, assist in the planning and execution of seminars and conferences when held in their region, and perform any other duties as directed by the Executive Board.

ARTICLE VI
Selection for Executive Board

- Section 1. **Application.**
- A. To be eligible for selection to the Executive Board a member must be in good standing.
 - B. Members seeking office shall submit their name, along with a short resume', to the Executive Board in person or through the United States Mail.
 - C. Application for the office of Association President may be made from the entire paid membership of the Association.
 - D. Application for each Vice-President will be from only those members in their respective state.
- Section 2. **Selection Process.**
- A. **Office of President.** To be considered for President the applicant must be a current Vice-President in the Association. The Applicant will put forth their name at a regular meeting of Executive Board. Selection for this office will be held during an Executive Session of the Board meeting.
 - B. **Office of Vice-President.** To be considered for Vice-President the applicant must be a member in good standing of the member state whose Vice-Presidency is vacant. The applicant must submit their name to the Executive Board to be considered at a regular meeting of the Executive Board. Selection for this office will be held during an Executive Session of the Board Meeting.
 - 1. In the case of multiple applicants for the vacant position, the applicants will be allowed to present their credentials for consideration to the Executive Board. The Applicants may also present their credentials in person to the Executive Board while in Executive Session.

ARTICLE VI
Selection for Executive Board
(continued)

- C. **Cabinet Offices.** Association members wishing to fill vacant Cabinet positions, as defined in section Article IV, Section 1 (CABINET) will submit their names to the Executive Board for consideration. Applicants must be a member in good standing and may come from any of the member States. Cabinet members may be selected by the Executive Board at any time using the most expedient methods.

ARTICLE VII
Terms of Office

- Section 1. All offices of the Association will be indeterminate.

ARTICLE VIII
Termination of Office

- Section 1. **Termination of Office.** Every Officer of the Northwest Gang Investigators Association is subject, as herein provided, to termination by the Executive Board.

- A. An officer of the Association is free to resign from their position at any time during their tenure. Resignation must be in writing and submitted to the Executive Board stating the reason for the resignation.
- B. An officer of this Association may be removed from their position at any time by action of the Executive Board for any of the following reasons:
1. Arrest for any criminal offense.
 2. Failure to perform the duties of the office.
 3. Moral turpitude.
 4. Any other reason, when viewed in the best interest of the Association and by unanimous vote of the Executive Board.
 5. Upon receipt of a petition of 'no confidence' from the general membership.
 - a. A petition of 'no confidence' must be state the name of the Executive Officer accused.
 - b. Must be signed by no less than 20% of the general paid membership.

- Section 2. **Membership status of terminated Executive Board members.**

- A. Any officer of the Executive Board who resigns under Section 1A of this Article will retain their Life Membership and all the privileges associated with such Life Membership.
- B. Any officer of the Executive Board, Cabinet or Regional coordinators removed from office under Section 1B(1)(2)or(3) of this Article will be stripped of their membership in the Association.
- C. Any officer removed from office under Section 1B(4)or(5) of this Article will become regular members of the Association.

ARTICLE IX

Bonding

Section 1. **Bonding.** Surety bonds covering the Secretary, Treasurer, and/or other officers designated to sign checks may be purchased annually by the Association at the discretion of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE X

Insurance

Section 1. **Insurance.** Liability and 'Board' Insurance may be purchased annually by the Association at the discretion of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE XI

Meetings

Section 1. **Frequency.** Regular membership meetings will be held at least once a year. Additional membership meetings shall be held at the discretion of the Executive Board.

A. Meetings will normally occur during the Spring Conference.

Section 2. **Location.** Membership meetings will be held at a location selected by the Vice-President hosting the meeting and approved by the Executive Board. These meetings will be rotated among the members States, to allow for maximum exposure of the Association to all members and to share in the travel burden by all members.

Section 3. **Quorum.** A Quorum is the members present at regular membership meetings called by the President or Executive Board.

Section 4. **Procedural Order.** Order of business at all Association meetings shall be as provided by *Robert's Rules of Order*, unless superseded by the Executive Board by majority vote.

Section 5. **Notification.** Notification for meetings will be made as follows:

A. Each paid member will be notified in the most expedient manner.

B. The Executive Board, in conjunction with appropriate cabinet members will be responsible for the notification.

Section 6. **Executive Board Meetings.** Executive Board meetings shall be held prior to the regular membership meetings. The location and date will be determined by the Executive Board. Notification of the meetings will be the responsibility of the President or his designee.

A. Executive Board meetings will be open to all members, except when called in Executive Session to discuss matters deemed private.

B. A quorum of the Executive Board will be three (3) Board members.

C. All votes on business of the Executive Board will be by Executive Board members only.

Section 7. **Special Meetings.** The President of the Association is empowered to call special meetings of the membership and/or Executive Board. Notification of these meetings will be made by the President. All notifications will be made fifteen (15) days prior to the meeting. In the event of emergencies, telephonic or electronic meetings are permitted.

ARTICLE XI

Meetings

(continued)

Section 8. **Electronic Meetings.** The Executive Board may use electronic means to conduct business when necessary. Such business shall be recorded by the Secretary and reported to the board members in person at the next physical meeting of the board. Results of all decisions shall be communicated to all board members immediately upon conclusion.

ARTICLE XII

Membership

Section 1. **Life Membership.**

- A. Any Executive Board member who had been elected prior to year 2004 or appointed as an Executive Board member of this Association after year 2004, shall automatically become a life member upon completion of one year of unbroken service in that office for which they were elected (prior to year 2004) or appointed.
- B. Life membership may be purchased by a member in good standing in the amount of \$400.
- C. Life members shall not be required to pay dues in this Association, and will be allowed to attend all Association functions at no charge.

Section 2. **Honorary Membership.**

- A. The President of this Association may, upon approval of the Executive Board, issue honorary memberships. These memberships may be renewed each year.
- B. Those persons selected for honorary membership will be accorded all privileges of a regular membership, except the right to vote on Association business and hold office.
- C. Honorary members will not be required to pay dues to this Association.

Section 3. **Regular Membership.**

- A. Regular membership will be open to:
 - 1. Law enforcement officers.
 - 2. Federal law enforcement officers.
 - 3. Attorneys and investigators of state's Attorney General offices.
 - 4. Corrections staff dealing with gang populations.
 - 5. Parole and Probation Officers.
 - 6. State and Federal Prosecutors and investigators.
 - 7. National Guard personnel assigned to criminal justice agencies.
 - 8. Military police officers.
 - 9. School resource officers.
 - 10. Civilian personnel assigned to law enforcement units investigating gangs.
- B. All memberships will be subject to the approval of the Executive Board.
- C. Regular membership shall be renewed each year with the payment of current year's dues.
- D. Memberships are for individual persons.

ARTICLE XII
Membership
(continued)

Section 4. **Associate Membership.**

- A. Associate membership will be open to:
 - 1. School officials.
 - 2. School teachers.
 - 3. Religious services staff.
 - 4. Civilians working with at-risk youth.
 - 5. Private security officers.
 - 6. Other civilians as may request membership.
- B. Associate membership must be approved by the Executive Board.
- C. Memberships are for individual persons.

Section 5. **Dues.** Annual Dues in the Association shall be:

- A. \$25 for new members
- B. \$20 for Annual Dues Renewals
- C. Membership will be considered ‘lapsed’ if dues are not paid by March of the current Dues year.

Section 6. **Relief from payment of Dues.**

- A. Any Officer of this Association who is not a Life Member will be relieved from payment of dues during the active terms of office.
- B. The Executive Board may vote to extend relief of dues to any member.

Section 7. **How attained.**

- A. Those who meet the membership requirements under Sections 3(a) or 4(a) of this Article may attain membership in the NWGIA by:
 - 1. Completing the Application for membership and paying the New Member or Annual Dues fees accordingly.
 - 2. Attending a regular Conference of the NWGIA and pay the non-member pricing schedule.

ARTICLE XII

Membership

(continued)

Section 8. **Removal from membership.**

A. Membership in the Association may be removed/revoked for the following reasons:

1. Arrest for any criminal offense.
2. Moral turpitude.
3. Failure to remain current on Dues Payment.
4. Any other reason, when viewed in the best interest of the Association, and by unanimous vote of the Executive Board.

Section 9. **Reinstatement of membership**

- A. Membership in the Association may be reinstated only if the member was removed from membership under Section 8(A)(3) above, by re-applying for membership and paying the New Member Dues Fee.
- B. Reinstatement of membership when removed/revoked under Section 8(A)(1),(2), or (4) may be attained by submitting a request for reinstatement letter to the NWGIA Executive Board explaining reasons for reinstatement request.

ARTICLE XIII

Loans, Grants, Gifts, Liquidation and Sale of Property/Equipment

Section 1. **Authority.** The Executive Board and/or the Trustees of the Association are granted authority to purchase, lease and otherwise acquire property (real and personal), equipment, and vehicles, enter into contracts for services, purchase savings bonds, and hire professional services on behalf of and for the benefit of the Association.

Section 2. **Receivership.** The Executive Board and/or the Trustees of the Association may accept, on behalf of the Association, grants, gifts and donations.

Section 3. **Liquidation of Association.** Upon the termination of the Association, all assets and property shall first be liquidated. After all outstanding debts and expenses have been paid; the remaining funds shall be turned over equally to the member States Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. If no Officers Memorial Fund exists in that member State, then the funds shall be turned over to that States Fund/Agency that deals with benefits to the families of Fallen Officers.

Section 4. **Sale of Property/Equipment.** Any property or equipment owned by the Association and no longer needed or determined to be surplus may be sold as deemed necessary.

- A. Proceeds of sales of surplus property/equipment shall go into the general fund of the Association.

ARTICLE XIV
Internet Web Page

Section 1. **Web Page.** The Association Publication Editor will establish and maintain an internet web page. The web page will contain (at a minimum):

- A. Contact information for each Executive Board Member, Cabinet Member and Regional Coordinator.
- B. Conference information.
- C. Links to other gang associations.
- D. Secure members only area.
- E. Online store for NWGIA merchandise.
- F. Any other information as determined by the Publication Editor and Executive Board.

ARTICLE XV
Representation in other organizations

Section 1. **Membership in other organizations.** The NWGIA may be represented in other regional or national organizations with the approval of the Executive Board.

- A. The President of the NWGIA will be the de-facto representative of the NWGIA to any other regional or national organizations.
 - 1. The President may appoint any Executive Board Vice-President to be a proxy at any meetings of regional or national organization meetings of which NWGIA is a member organization, with the full power vested by that organization to the NWGIA.
 - 2. The President may assign any Executive Board Vice-President as a permanent delegate to any regional or national organization of which NWGIA is a member organization.
- B. The President, or the official delegate, may hold office in any regional or national organization of which NWGIA is a member organization with the approval of the Executive Board.
 - 1. The President, or official delegate, must continue to serve as an Executive Board member of the NWGIA while holding any office in a regional or national organization of which NWGIA is a member organization.
 - 2. The President or official delegate must resign from any office in a regional or national organization of which NWGIA is a member organization when they resign from or are removed from the NWGIA Executive Board.

Section 2. **Dues and financial obligations.**

- A. The NWGIA may pay dues or participate in the financial aspects of the regional or national organization of which it is a member so far as to not have a heavy or negative impact on the treasury of the NWGIA.

ARTICLE XV
Representation in other organizations
(continued)

Section 3. **Right of removal from membership in other organizations.**

- A. The NWGIA may, at any time, withdraw, resign or remove the association from any regional or national organization of which it is a member, with the approval of the Executive Board so long as that withdrawal, removal or resignation is in the best interest of the membership of the NWGIA, or if the regional or national organization participates in activities which may be contrary to the ideals and/or mission of the NWGIA, or may jeopardize the Non-Profit Status of the NWGIA.
- B. Should the NWGIA exercise this right of removal, any Executive Board members serving as officers of these organizations will be immediately recalled and barred from activity with that organization.
- C. The NWGIA may rejoin any organization it has removed itself from with the approval of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE XVI
Amendments

Section 1. **Authority.** The Executive Board shall have the power as a body to amend the Constitution at a regularly scheduled Board meeting. An amendment proposal may be made by any Association member in good standing by that member or through a member of the Executive Board, Cabinet, or Regional Coordinators. The amendment may be passed by the Executive Board only as a unanimous vote of a quorum of the Board. All amendments to this Constitution will be distributed to all members at the next regular membership meeting.

ARTICLE XVII
Suspension of Bylaws

Section 1. **Suspension of Bylaws.** The President may, with approval of the Executive Board, suspend any or all portions of these bylaws, as may be deemed appropriate to best interest of the Association. The suspension of bylaws will be communicated to all members through the most expedient manner.

- A. Every effort shall be made to re-organize the area of bylaws suspended to better fit the need of the Association.

ARTICLE XVIII
Events not covered by these Bylaws

Section 1. **Extenuating Circumstances.** The Executive Board will decide on anything not covered by these bylaws in the best interest of the Association.