

**CONSTITUTION**  
of  
North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society

**ARTICLE I**

**NAME:** The name of this organization shall be the North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society.

**ARTICLE II**

**1. GENERAL PURPOSE:** The North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society is a non-profit organization registered with and operating under the laws of the State of Mississippi. The organization is created solely and exclusively for:

- A. Promoting the educational, scientific, and recreational aspects of the avocation in the subjects of mineralogy, geology, archaeology, lapidary arts and crafts and other areas related to the various earth sciences.
- B. Aiding and assisting individuals, associations, and other groups engaged in furthering education in the earth sciences.
- C. Conduct regularly scheduled meetings, workshops, and field trips to enhance members' knowledge of subjects pertaining to the earth sciences and to learn or improve skills in the Lapidary Arts and crafts.
- D. Sponsor and provide means of coordinating the work and effort of all persons and groups interested in earth science and the lapidary arts and crafts with special emphasis on the cultural values of said projects.

**2. LIMITATIONS:** The North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society shall not by any substantial part of its activities attempt to influence legislation, engage in the distribution of propaganda, or participate in unlawful demonstrations or assemblies. Its net income shall not contribute in whole or part, to the benefit of any individual, individuals, businesses or commercial enterprises, not including scholarships awarded to a member in good standing of NMGMS.

**ARTICLE III**

**MEMBERSHIP:** Membership is open to anyone interested in the earth sciences or lapidary arts and crafts. No one will be denied membership because of race, sex, religion, or political affiliation. Children eighteen years of age and not yet a high school graduate can belong as youth members or as part of a family membership.

## ARTICLE IV

### GOVERNING BODIES:

1. **EXECUTIVE BOARD:** The elected officers of the society shall be the members of the Executive Board. The members of this board will be responsible for conducting the business of the society and shall be charged with the forming of policy and executing the expressed wishes of the membership. The board recommends and brings before the membership any matters of major importance, including any expenditures of monies other than the current obligations for expenses.
2. The members of the North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society shall be responsible for:
  - A. The election of club officers.
  - B. Establishing membership dues.
  - C. Approval or rejection of expenditures or financial transactions.
  - D. Approval or rejection of recommendations or proposals of the Executive Board.

## ARTICLE V

**DISSOLUTION:** Upon dissolution, all monies and properties belonging to the club shall be donated to other gem and mineral societies student scholarship funds or educational institution scholarship funds involved in the earth sciences or lapidary arts. Disposition of monies and properties shall be determined by majority vote of the membership.

## ARTICLE VI

The North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society shall be located in the vicinity of North Mississippi.

## ARTICLE VII

The North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society shall have no capital stock.

## ARTICLE VIII

All amendments to this constitution must originate with the executive board. Any member may approach the board with a proposed amendment. The board will draft the proposed amendment and present it to the membership for publication and subsequent consideration at the next regular meeting following publication. The amendment must be approved by a two-thirds majority of a meeting at which a quorum is present. (A quorum being 50% or more of the active members present.)

**BY – LAWS**  
of  
North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society

**ARTICLE I**  
Classes of Membership

1. **Regular Membership:** Regular membership shall be an individual over 18 years of age or a high school graduate who shall subscribe to the purposes of the club, its Constitution and By laws, and who shall annually pay dues as fixed in the By laws, and shall have one vote.

2. **Family Membership:** Family membership shall be a family unit and children under 18 years of age or a high school graduate, who shall subscribe to the purposes of the club, its By laws and regulations, and who shall annually pay dues as fixed in the By laws, with each adult having one vote as regular members.

3. **Youth Membership:** Youth membership shall be an individual under 18 years of age or a high school graduate who shall subscribe to the purposes of the club, its by-laws and regulations and who shall annually pay dues as fixed in the By laws. Youth members are not allowed to vote or hold an elective office. A youth member must be part of a family unit or have an adult member as a sponsor.

4. **Honorary and/or Lifetime Members:** These members may be elected by the majority vote of the members of the club upon recommendation of the Executive Board. Members shall be limited to those active in the earth sciences, lapidary arts and crafts, or related area who have demonstrated outstanding characteristics deemed appropriately deserving of recognition by the membership. This type membership is given for recognition only and the recipient is not entitled to a vote or required to pay dues.

**ARTICLE II**  
Dues and Fees

1. Applicants accepted to membership in the last five months of the fiscal year shall pay half the annual dues from September on.

2. Dues are payable upon application for membership.

3. The dues shall be payable annually in advance of the date of the regular meeting in March. Members will be suspended after the May meeting for dues non-payment. To assure reinstatement and continuous membership after this date, all dues and fees in arrears are to be paid in full.

4. **DUES:**

A. Regular Membership (Including Bulletin).....\$10.00

B. Family Membership (Including 1 Bulletin).....\$15.00

C. Honorary and/or Lifetime Membership..... Shall pay no dues

5. **FEES:**

A. Newsletter Subscription (Non Members).....\$10.00

**ARTICLE III**

**Duties of the Elective Officers**

1. **PRESIDENT:** The duties of the President shall be to preside over all regular meetings, to preside over special business meetings, to appoint all permanent and special committee chairmen, and to serve as an ex-officio member of all committees.

2. **VICE PRESIDENT:** The duties of the Vice President shall be to officiate in the absence of the President, to be Program Chairman and to select a gift for the outgoing President.

3. **SECRETARY:** The duties of the Secretary shall be to keep an accurate record of the proceedings of all meetings of the society and meetings of the Executive Board. Make three copies of minutes, one for file, one for the President, and one for the Bulletin Editor.

4. **TREASURER:** The duties of the Treasurer shall be to receive all dues and make all disbursements. The Treasurer shall keep a full and accurate account of such transactions and render a report at each regular meeting and make a financial report to the Executive Board or to the President when requested. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to furnish bond upon request of the Board of Directors in an amount to approximate the amount of current assets of the society.

**ARTICLE IV.**  
**Duties of Permanent Committees**

1. **HOSPITALITY CHAIRPERSON:** Hospitality Chairperson will register all members and guests at each meeting, be responsible for accepting door prizes and the drawing for same.
2. **MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON:** Membership Chairperson shall collect dues and issue cards of membership, and develop and maintain a directory of members and prospective members who are eligible to join.
3. **EDITOR - NEWSLETTER CHAIRPERSON:** The Editor shall be Chairperson of the Newsletter Committee. Duties shall consist of composing and assembling a monthly newsletter. Newsletters will be sent to members prior to meetings. Minutes of the previous meeting can be printed in each bulletin. Any additions or corrections should be noted in the next publication.
5. **HISTORIAN – LIBRARIAN:** Duties of the Historian - Librarian shall be to keep records of all historical data pertaining to the club, to keep a record of all acquisitions, such as books, minerals and to keep files on localities of geological interest and whether public or private.
6. **PUBLICITY CHAIRPERSON:** Duties of the Publicity Chairperson shall be to disseminate news releases at the direction of the President or other officer to the appropriate media, and to furnish posters and other type publicity for field trips, shows or other club functions.
7. **FIELD TRIP CHAIRPERSON:** Field Trip Chairperson determines suitable location for club field trips and makes arrangements therefor.

**ARTICLE V**  
**Meetings**

1. The regular meetings of the North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society shall be held at a place designated by the Executive Board on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month.
2. Executive Board meetings will be called by the President and will meet no less than twice a year. Due notice of special meetings must be given to members of the board.
3. Notices of special meetings called by the Board or President shall specify the principal items of business to be considered on the agenda.

4. A three member nominating committee shall be appointed at the December meeting. Nominees shall be presented at the January meeting and the election of officers held in February with installation at the March meeting.

5. Elected officers shall serve for a term of one year. Officers may be re-elected for a second term but shall not serve more than two consecutive years in the same office.

6. Field trips shall be sponsored at such time as the proper committees of the club shall direct. Notice shall be given to all members of such trips. Waivers of responsibility must be signed before participating.

7. The order of business at a regular (or special meeting, when ordered by the presiding officer ) can be:

- |                                     |                        |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| A. Call to order and welcome        | F. Unfinished business |
| B. Acceptance of minutes            | G. New business        |
| C. Acceptance of Treasurer's report | H. Open forum report   |
| D. Committee reports                | I. Adjournment         |
| E. Communications                   | J. Program             |

8. All Parliamentary procedures shall be in accord with Robert's Rules of Order.

#### ARTICLE VI Amendments

These by laws may be altered or amended at any meeting of the club by a two-thirds vote of the members present. A month's notice of such alterations or amendments must be given via the society's publication.

## **North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society By-Laws**

### **Old by-laws (amended)**

#### **Article V, 4:**

**“A three member nominating committee shall be appointed at the December (October) meeting. Nominees shall be presented at the January (November) meeting and the election of officers held in February (December) with installation at the March (January) meeting.”**

#### **Article II, 1:**

**“Applicants accepted to membership in the last five months of the fiscal year shall pay half the annual dues from September (July) on.”**

#### **Article II, 3:**

**“The dues shall be payable annually in advance of the date of the regular meeting in March (January). Members will be suspended after the May (March) meeting for dues non-payment. To assure reinstatement and continuous membership after this date, all dues and fees in arrears are to be paid in full.”**

#### **Article II, 4:**

- A. Regular Membership (including newsletter)...\$10.00 (\$12.00)**
- B. Family Membership (including 1 newsletter)...\$15.00 (20.00)**

**Change “Article VI Amendments” to “Article VII Amendments”, to allow the insertion of the following suggestion:**

#### **New Article VI Club Year:**

**“The club year shall run from January through December.”**

### **Articles of Incorporation**

- A. The purpose for which the North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. is organized are exclusively religious, charitable, scientific, literary, and educational purposes, including for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or corresponding sections of any future federal tax code.**

- B. No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributed to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the purpose clause hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the organization shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, this organization shall not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on (A) by an organization or the corresponding provision of any future U.S. Internal Revenue Code, or (B) by an organization, contribution to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.**
- C. In the event of dissolution, the residual assets of the organization will be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or corresponding sections of any future Internal Revenue Code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by the Chancery Court of the county in which the principal office of the organization is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization(s), as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.**



Old By-laws :

NMG&MS Bylaws

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