

BPPA By-Laws (2013)

ARTICLE I - NAME OF THE ASSOCIATION

Name of Association: Boston Press Photographers Association

ARTICLE II - OBJECT AND PURPOSE

OBJECT AND PURPOSE

The Boston Press Photographers Association, Inc., is constituted for the purpose of promoting and protecting the interests and welfare of the News Photographer; to advance News Photography in all its aspects; to provide a better understanding of the News Photographer's problems; to consult, cooperate and negotiate with any and all powers of authority concerning the control and/or restriction of the News Photographer in the performance of his duties; to oppose vigorously any infringements and/or violations upon the rights of the News Photographer; and to support and promote all programs designed to maintain the rights of a free press as guaranteed under Amendment I of the Constitution of the United States.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1

Membership in the Boston Press Photographers Association, Inc., shall be exclusively confined to professional News Photographers working in the six New England states (defined as Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island) and others whose occupation has a direct relationship with News Photography as defined in SECTIONS 2, 3, 4 and 5 of this Article.

SECTION 2 - FULL MEMBERSHIP

To qualify for full membership a candidate must work for an accredited news gathering organization, whose principal duties consist of the gathering or dissemination of photographic/video imagery. Full membership must be approved by the Board of Directors (BOD). An applicant must submit an application to the BOD with two professional references, including one from a news organization with whom they work. Acceptance into the BPPA will be approved by the BOD and confirmed once the membership fee is paid. Full members may hold office, vote and enter the annual contest.

SECTION 3 - HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

Any person who has a contributory interest in News Photography, but

does not qualify for membership under SECTIONS 2 of this Article, may be nominated for Honorary Membership by the Board of Directors. Upon majority approval by the membership, such person shall be deemed an Honorary Member of this Association. Honorary Members shall not pay dues nor shall they hold elective office or be eligible to vote on any business of the Association. Honorary members shall be permitted to attend meetings and enter the annual contest.

SECTION 4 - STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

Any individual who is studying photography or videography at a recognized school or college shall be eligible upon approval of the board of directors. A student applicant must submit an application to the BOD with a reference from a professor. Student members shall be permitted to attend meetings and enter the annual student contest. Students shall not pay dues nor shall they hold elective office or be eligible to vote on any business of the Association.

SECTION 5 - LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Upon the approval of the Board of Directors, Life Membership may be extended in the member's present classification with dues waived. Life members shall hold elective office and be eligible to vote on any business of the Association.

SECTION 6 - RECLASSIFICATION OF MEMBER STATUS

Any member whose position is altered so as to result in a change of his classification may make a written request to the Membership Committee requesting reclassification. Upon investigation by the BOD, such a member may be reclassified. A majority vote of the members present is required for any such change of classification.

SECTION 7 - TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Termination of membership in this Association may be for any of the following reasons:

A. All resignations shall be made in writing. Any member wishing to resign honorably shall discharge all financial obligations to this Association prior to his resignation.

B. Any member not having paid his annual dues by March 31st of the current year shall be suspended upon written notice from the Association. Such member shall be granted a thirty (30) day grace period during which to pay his dues. If after the notification and termination of the grace period the dues are still unpaid, the member shall be dismissed from the Association and his name removed from the rolls.

C. Any member, who by change of employment or for any other reason, can no longer meet the requirements of SECTION 2 or SECTION 3 of this Article, may be recommended for an Honorary Membership by the

Board of Directors. If no recommendation is forthcoming the member shall be dismissed from this Association by written notice stating the reasons for his termination. His appeal shall be heard by the Board of Directors with their action being final and binding. While any appeal is pending the member shall retain his membership status.

D. Any member who willfully fails in his duties or who is guilty of conduct reflecting unfavorably on the Boston Press Photographers Association, Inc., may be dismissed from this Association after a formal hearing before the Board of Directors as covered by ARTICLE VIII, SECTION 8, subparagraph H of these Bylaws.

SECTION 8 - REINSTATEMENT

Any member who has been dismissed from the Association may make application for reinstatement. Said application for reinstatement shall be made on an official membership application and shall be accompanied by a reinstatement fee of twenty five (25) dollars and one year's dues. Upon investigation and subsequent recommendation by the Membership Committee said member may be reinstated by a majority vote of the membership. Any reinstated member shall not be allowed any privileges of this Association until after January 1st of the year following his reinstatement. Any member who has resigned under honorable conditions as defined in SECTION 7, subparagraph A of this Article shall be exempted from the reinstatement fee and also shall be exempt from the limitations stated above pertaining to Association privileges.

SECTION 9 - ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

An active membership list shall be made up of all members of this Association who are in good standing. This list shall be maintained by the Secretary and Treasurer in collaboration with the Board of Directors. This list shall be compiled as soon after April 30th as possible and shall be made available to all committee chairmen for their use. In order for a member to participate in the activities of this Association he must be in good standing by April 30th.

ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

SECTION 1

The officers of The Boston Press Photographers Association, Inc., shall be the President; Vice President; Secretary; Treasurer; Assistant Secretary; Assistant Treasurer and Marshall. Candidates for the offices of President and Vice President must be a full member in good standing. See Article III Section 2.

SECTION 2

The Board of Directors shall consist of six (6) duly elected members and the immediate Past President shall automatically become the seventh (7th) member. The seven (7) Board members shall, at their earliest convenience hold a meeting, at which time they will elect one of their body as Chairman of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 3

The Executive Committee shall consist of the aforementioned officers and the members of the Board of Directors plus two (2) special appointees to be named by the President. At the discretion of the President, committee chairmen may be permitted to attend Executive Committee meetings and may be permitted to vote on certain matters when so requested by the President.

ARTICLE V - ELECTION OF OFFICERS

SECTION 1

At the regularly scheduled meeting of the Association in September of every other year, nominations of officers and members of the Board of Directors shall take place from the floor, with the elections to follow in October by absentee ballot of the Active Membership.

SECTION 2

Any member nominated at any biennial election shall not be eligible to be a candidate for more than one office at such election.

SECTION 3

The President shall appoint a committee of three tellers, one of whom shall be the Secretary, to count the ballots and make known the results of the election immediately.

SECTION 4

Officers and Board Members shall assume office at the October meeting following their election and shall hold office for two (2) years.

SECTION 5

The President of this Association shall be permitted to succeed himself only once, for a total of four years in that office. After two successive terms, the President may be nominated and elected after a lapse of two years. All other officers of the Association may be permitted to succeed themselves as long as they may be so elected. Repeated succession shall not be permitted in any office when, in the opinion of the Board of Directors, such succession is not in the best interest of the Association.

ARTICLE VI - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

SECTION I - PRESIDENT

The President of this Association shall preside at all meetings of the membership. He must enforce a strict observance of the Constitution, the Bylaws, and the Rules of Order and supervise all balloting. He shall be a member ex-officio of all committees. He shall neither make nor second any motion or vote, except in the case of a tie, while presiding. He shall appoint persons to fill vacant offices. He shall appoint all committees, including the following standing committees:

- A. Welfare Committee (committee that is responsible for sending notification of members who are or gravely ill members)
- B. Photo Contest Committee
 - a. Still Contest
 - b. Video Contest
 - c. College Contest
- C. Credentials Committee (no less than 3 members in good standing)
 - a. News Plates
 - b. Tri Cards
 - c. Membership
- D. Annual Ball Committee
 - a. Dinner-Dance
 - b. Yearbook advertising
 - c. Awards and plaques
 - d. Tickets
 - e. Entertainment
 - f. Video presentation
- E. Public Relations Committee
- F. Web committee
- G. Meetings Committee

The President shall notify each committee member that copies of all correspondence pertaining to Association business shall be forwarded to the President prior to mailing. The President shall see that all copies of correspondence affecting this Association be maintained in a permanent file. The location and keeper of this file shall be designated by the President.

SECTION 2 - VICE PRESIDENT

The Vice President shall preside at all meetings of the general membership in the absence of, or at the request of the President. The Vice President of this Association shall be a member of all committees with full voting rights. If the president is unable to fulfill his duties as president, for any reason, those duties shall temporarily transfer to the

vice president. The vice president will have full powers of the president until such time that the president shall resume the duties of the office of president. If the president can not or will not fulfill the current term then the vice president will assume the office of the president until the next scheduled election.

SECTION 3 - SECRETARY

The Secretary shall:

A. Keep a record of the proceedings of the Association and read the minutes at the following meeting. Such record in each case shall be available for inspection by any member in good standing upon reasonable notice to the Secretary.

B. Conduct the correspondence of the Association and keep copies of all such correspondence on file. At the discretion of the President, he shall read any correspondence at the regular meetings. Under no circumstances shall any correspondence be official except when authorized by the President.

C. Sign all documents, resolutions, etc., placing the Seal of the Association thereon.

D. Notify all active members of all Association meetings not less than seven (7) days prior to the date of said meeting.

E. Maintain an accurate membership directory.

F. Maintain an accurate roster of the Board of Directors and of all committees.

G. Receive all applications for membership in the Association together with the initiation fees and dues, which he shall turn over promptly to the Treasurer. The application shall be turned over the membership committee.

H. Keep a record of the numerical attendance at all meetings and shall notify the members at the next regular meeting of the death, resignation, dismissal or disqualification of any member.

I. Have custody of the Seal of the Association.

J. Preside at all meetings of the membership when the President and Vice President are not present.

SECTION 4 - ASSISTANT SECRETARY

The Assistant Secretary shall assist the Secretary in whatever manner the Secretary may request. He shall keep the minutes of the Committee meetings when called upon to do so by the Chair.

SECTION 5 - TREASURER

The Treasurer shall collect all monies payable to this Association.

A. All funds collected shall be deposited in the name of The Boston Press Photographers Association, Inc., by the Treasurer.

B. Two signatures shall be required on all withdrawals of

Association monies. The Treasurer along with the President shall sign all withdrawals.

C. The Treasurer shall keep a record of all monies paid to the Association, all monies due the Association, all monies paid out by the Association, and all monies owed by the Association.

D. The treasurer shall maintain a current up-to-date list of dues paid by members and shall notify the Secretary of any pending suspensions.

E. The treasurer shall have custody of all securities and shall deposit them in a safe deposit box in the name of The Boston Press Photographers Association, Inc.

F. He shall execute the payment of all bills of the Association that have been authorized by the president or the board of directors.

G. The Treasurer shall prepare a full detail semi-annual financial report and present the same to the President and the Board of Directors.

H. The Treasurer shall prepare a complete annual financial report for presentation to the membership at the September meeting of each year. The report shall indicate all assets and liabilities of the Association as of the end of the fiscal year ending August 31st, showing in which bank or banks the funds are deposited and indicating what investments are maintained in the portfolio of the Association. This report shall also include a statement of receipts and disbursements during the fiscal year.

I. The Treasurer must be bondable.

SECTION 6 - ASSISTANT TREASURER.

The Assistant Treasurer shall assist the Treasurer in whatever way the Treasurer may request. It shall be the duty of the Assistant Treasurer to familiarize himself with the books and financial affairs of the Association. The assistant treasurer shall collect any and all fees at meetings of the general membership. In the event that the assistant treasurer is not in attendance the President shall appoint a member in good standing to collect any and all fees and turn such fee over to the treasurer.

SECTION 7 - MARSHALL

It shall be the duty of the Marshall at all meetings of the membership to maintain order and to enforce all rules and regulations under the direction of the President. In the event that for any reason the Marshall is unable to attend any meeting of the Association, the President shall appoint a member in good standing to serve as Marshall during the Marshall's absence.

SECTION 8 - BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

A. The Board of Directors shall meet bi-monthly and at the discretion of the Chairman of the Board of Directors.

B. A quorum for a meeting of the Board of Directors shall consist of

not less than four (4) members of the Board.

C. The Board shall consider and take steps to provide for the property of the Association and shall have the authority to formulate policies of the Association and to interpret and enforce the Constitution and Bylaws.

D. All financial statements of the Association shall be studied by the Board of Directors for approval.

E. The Board of Directors shall employ an auditor to audit the accounts of the Association and report the results of such audit to the membership every two years or more often if deemed necessary.

F. The Board of Directors shall control and manage the assets of this Association in accordance with and subject to the limitations imposed by the Articles of this Constitution and Bylaws.

G. It is the duty of the Board of Directors to make sure the Treasurer is bonded.

H. It is the duty of the members of the Board of Directors to enforce and maintain the Constitution and Bylaws of this Association. Any member who willfully fails in their duty or who is guilty of conduct reflecting unfavorably on the Boston Press Photographers Association, Inc., shall be summoned before the Board of Directors for a formal hearing. Charges, accompanied by all available supporting facts and evidence against the member must be presented to the Board of Directors in writing and endorsed by two (2) members in good standing. On receipt of charges and evidence, the Board Chairman shall send a copy of the complaint and supporting data to the accused member by registered mail. The member shall be notified that he must file an answer within thirty (30) days accompanied by whatever evidence he desires to present. Failure to file an answer within the thirty (30) day period is considered an admission of guilt. Whenever, in the unanimous opinion of the Board of Directors, the evidence justifies the charges, the Board of Directors may recommend to the membership that the accused member be dismissed from the Association under the provisions of ARTICLE 111, SECTION 7, subparagraph C. When such recommendation is made to the membership, it is the duty of the Board of Directors to present to the membership a complete record of the charges and the defense. Upon a vote by two-thirds (2/3) of the voting members present, the membership shall recommend a decision, the Board of Directors shall inform the accused member of the decision of the membership by registered mail.

ARTICLE VII – AMENDMENTS

The Constitution and Bylaws may be amended in one of two manners:

A: Proposed amendments must be sponsored by six (6) members in

good standing, submitted in writing to the Board of Directors, and approved by two-thirds of the full membership.

B: The bylaws may be amended with the unanimous approval of the Board of Directors.