

REGION IX COUNCIL BYLAWS



BLACKS IN GOVERNMENT

October 20, 2007

**BLACKS IN GOVERNMENT (BIG)
REGION IX
REGIONAL COUNCIL BYLAWS**

ARTICLES

INDEX

| | | |
|----------------------|----------|--|
| ARTICLE I | - | NAME |
| ARTICLE II | - | GOALS AND OBJECTIVES |
| ARTICLE III | - | REGIONAL COUNCIL STRUCTURE, COMPOSITION AND AUTHORITY |
| ARTICLE IV | - | CHAPTER FORMATION AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS |
| ARTICLE V | - | ELECTED OFFICERS AND APPOINTMENTS |
| ARTICLE VI | - | EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE |
| ARTICLE VII | - | DUTIES OF OFFICERS |
| ARTICLE VIII | - | MEETINGS AND QUORUMS |
| ARTICLE IX | - | STANDING COMMITTEES AND DUTIES |
| ARTICLE X | - | DUTIES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE |
| ARTICLE XI | - | NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS |
| ARTICLE XII | - | DUES AND ASSESSMENTS |
| ARTICLE XIII | - | RESIGNATION, EXPULSION, SUSPENSION, REMOVAL, COMPLAINT OR VACANCIES |
| ARTICLE XIV | - | CHAPTER REPORTING REQUIREMENT |
| ARTICLE XV | - | EXPENSES AND REIMBURSEMENT |
| ARTICLE XVI | - | RULES OF PROCEDURE |
| ARTICLE XVII | - | INCORPORATION |
| ARTICLE XVIII | - | LIMITATION OF LIABILITY |
| ARTICLE XIX | - | AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS |
| ARTICLE XX | - | RATIFICATION |

**BLACKS IN GOVERNMENT (BIG)
REGION IX**

REGIONAL COUNCIL BYLAWS

ARTICLE I

NAME

- SECTION 1.** The name of this organization shall be Region IX, Regional Council of Blacks In Government (BIG).
- SECTION 2.** The seal of the organization shall be in the form of two concentric circles and shall bear the words "BLACKS IN GOVERNMENT" (BIG) inscribed in the space between the inner and outer circle and letters BIG inscribed inside the inside the inner circle.

ARTICLE II

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- SECTION 1.** To be an advocate of equal opportunity for Blacks in government.
- SECTION 2.** To eliminate practices of racism and racial discrimination against Blacks in government.
- SECTION 3.** To promote professionalism among Blacks in government.
- SECTION 4.** To develop and promote programs which will enhance ethnic pride and educational opportunities for Blacks in government.
- SECTION 5.** To establish a mechanism for the gathering and dissemination of information to Blacks in government.
- SECTION 6.** To provide a nonpartisan platform on major issues of local region, and national significance that affect Blacks in government.

ARTICLE III

**REGIONAL COUNCIL STRUCTURE,
COMPOSITION AND AUTHORITY**

- SECTION 1.** The Regional Council shall consist of Chartered Chapters located within the geographical jurisdiction of Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Guam, Trust Territory of Pacific Island, and American Samoa, or as stated in the National Constitution of Blacks In Government. All Chapters located in this area, shall belong to this Region. Regional boundaries may be changed only by an amendment to the National Constitution.

- SECTION 2.** All chapters within Region IX are required to have at least 10 regular members in accordance with the National Constitution, shall belong to Regional Council, and shall be limited to three (3) regular members elected from each chapter in Region IX plus two (2) Regional Directors.
- SECTION 3.** All chapters in Region IX shall be in good financial standing with the National Organization and Regional Council before their representative or delegate can be seated at the Regional Council meetings or National Delegates Assembly.
- SECTION 4.** Any regular member in good financial standing with the National Organization, the local chapter, their chapter has paid their Regional Assessment, and having met the requirements set forth in their chapter by-laws shall be eligible for membership on the Regional Council.
- SECTION 5.** The Regional Council shall determine the policy of Region IX and has the authority to undertake all appropriate actions requiring Regional attention and may exercise all power specifically conferred or implied herein. The Regional Council shall:
- A. Assist in the development of, and act as advisors to new and existing Chapters in the Region.
 - B. Act as local advisors to the National Board of Directors and the National Organization through the Regional Directors and to the National Organization Executive Committee.
 - C. Identify regional problems and develop common strategies for chapters to resolve those problems.
 - D. Develop mechanisms to share ideas, concerns, problems, information, and innovations among Chapters in the Region, and with the National Organization.
 - E. Present written concerns, resolutions, recommendations, and proposals to the Board of Directors through the Regional Directors.
 - F. Convene periodic meetings of the Council as determined by the representatives.

ARTICLE IV

CHAPTER FORMATION AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- SECTION 1.** The Regional Directors shall be required to assist in the formation of any new chapter in this Region.
- SECTION 2.** Any group of persons meeting the requirements of regular membership may petition for a chapter in accordance with Article V of the National Constitution. The documentation to form a chapter must be submitted through the Regional

Director(s) to the National Board of Directors in accordance with prescribed policies.

SECTION 3. The National President shall be responsible for issuance of a Chapter Charter of Authority as prescribed by the National Board of Directors.

- A. Only the National Board of Directors may suspend or terminate a Chapter or affiliation. The Board's recommendation for termination or suspension must be confirmed by vote of the Delegates at the next annual National Delegates Assembly.
- B. A Chapter may be suspended when found to be in violation of the National Constitution.

SECTION 4. Chapter Reporting Requirements.

- A. Chapters shall file written reports at the Regional Council meeting as requested by the Regional Council. All reports shall be submitted to the Regional Council Secretary.
- B. Chapters shall file periodic written reports as prescribed by the National Board of Directors. All reports shall be submitted through the Regional Director(s) to the National Office.

ARTICLE V

ELECTED OFFICERS AND APPOINTMENTS

SECTION 1. Regional Council Officers. Elected Officers shall be the President, First Vice-Presidents, Second Vice-President, Third Vice-President, Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer. The appointed officials shall be the Parliamentarian, Historian/Librarian, and any other appointee that may be approved by the Executive Committee and/or Regional Council.

SECTION 2. Regional Council Officers Eligibility. Elected Officers must be a voting member of the Regional Council. To be elected or appointed to a Regional Officer position, the member must be a member in good financial standing, and held an elected office at a Chapter or Regional Level for at least one full term (two years).

ARTICLE VI

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

SECTION 1. The Executive Committee shall consist of the elected officers of the Regional Council, Immediate Past President, the two Regional Directors, appointed positions of the Parliamentarian, Historian/Librarian and those approved by the Executive Committee and/or the Regional Council.

- SECTION 2.** The Parliamentarian and Historian/Librarian are appointed positions and shall be non-voting members of the Executive Committee.
- SECTION 3.** The Immediate Past President shall be a voting member as well as an advisor to the Executive Committee.
- SECTION 4.** The Regional Directors shall serve as members of the Board of Directors, and be non-voting members of the Executive Committee and Regional Council.
- SECTION 5.** The Executive Committee shall implement the policies established by the Regional Council through programs developed expressly for such purposes. The Executive Committee shall conduct routine business between meetings of the Regional Council and act in emergency situations. All actions of the Executive Committee shall be reported at the next Regional Council meeting.

ARTICLE VII

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

- SECTION 1.** **PRESIDENT.** The President shall preside at all meetings of the Regional Council and serve as the chair of the Executive Committee; shall be an ex officio member of all committees except the Nomination, Election and Finance committees; shall appoint the Parliamentarian and standing/special committee chairs subject to the approval of the Executive Committee; shall guide the implementation of policies which have been approved by the Regional Council; shall recommend to the National Board of Directors, through the Regional Directors, changes in policies and procedures; shall recommend to the National Executive Committee changes in policies, procedures and execution actions; shall present the Region's annual report at the final meeting of the year; shall countersign with the Treasurer, or Assistant Treasurer (in the absence of the Treasurer) checks drawn on the Regional Council Treasury; shall receive reports on activities from all the chapters in the Region; shall ensure notification to chapters of Regional meetings; and shall perform such other functions and exercise such other authorities as may be prescribed by the Executive Committee or Regional Council. Have general supervision over the affairs of the Regional Council. Preside at the annual Regional Training Conference. Shall perform other duties as assigned by the Executive Committee or the Regional Council.
- SECTION 2.** **FIRST VICE PRESIDENT.** In the absence of the President or in the event of disability of the President, the First Vice President shall perform all the duties and functions of the President. During such a period, the First Vice-President shall have all powers of and be subject to all the restrictions upon the President. This includes countersigning with the Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer, checks drawn on the Regional Council Treasury. The First Vice-President shall be responsible for the Program and Planning, and the Legislative and Legal Review Committees. The First Vice-President shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the President with approval of the Executive Committee.

SECTION 3. SECOND AND THIRD VICE PRESIDENT. The Second, Third Vice-Presidents shall perform all the duties and functions of the President and First Vice-President respectively in the absence or incapacitation of either or both officers. During such a period, the Vice-President shall have all the powers and be subject to the restrictions of the respective office. The Second Vice-President shall be responsible for the Membership and Bylaws Committees and countersigning with the Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer checks drawn on the Regional Council Treasury. The Third Vice-President shall be responsible for the Communications and Public Relations Committees; shall coordinate programs and activities relating to State and Local Government member services. Both officers shall perform other duties as assigned by the President, with the approval of the Executive Committee.

SECTION 4. SECRETARY. The Secretary shall maintain a record of all the proceedings of the Regional Council; produce such records upon request of any member or Chapter in good standing; shall record minutes and attendance of each meeting; copies of the minutes of each previous meeting are prepared by the Secretary are sent to all member in advance, the actual reading of the minutes aloud may be waived if the majority of the members do not object; shall provide copies of minutes to Regional Council members and Chapter Presidents fifteen (15) to thirty (30) days after each meeting; shall maintain in safe custody the Seal of the Regional Council and be empowered to affix such Seal to all contracts and instruments to be executed by the Executive Committee and countersign those documents with the President. The Secretary shall maintain record book(s) in which the bylaws, special rules of order, the then current Standing Rules, and minutes are entered, with any amendments to these documents properly recorded, and to have the current record book(s) on hand at every meeting of the Regional Council and Executive Committee; shall prepare and maintain an up-to-date roster of all officers, committee chairpersons, chapter presidents, and regional representatives; shall perform other duties as assigned by the President, with the approval of the Executive Committee.

SECTION 5. CORRESPONDING SECRETARY. The Corresponding Secretary shall receive and report all correspondence, with the exception of bank correspondence, which shall be delivered promptly to the Treasurer. Maintain a log of all incoming and outgoing correspondence; transmit to the Secretary all authorized correspondence to be kept for the official records; shall serve in the absence of the Secretary at regular or special meetings; shall prepare, record, and maintain the minutes and attendance at all Executive Committee meetings. The Corresponding Secretary shall provide copies of minutes to the Executive Committee, fifteen (15) to thirty (30) days after each meeting. Where applicable, be responsible for the rental of the post office box and shall examine the post office box on a weekly basis; shall prepare correspondence as directed by the President, and perform other duties as assigned by the President with approval of the Executive Committee.

SECTION 6. TREASURER. The Treasurer shall be the Chief Financial Officer of the Executive Committee and Regional Council; shall countersign, with the President, First Vice-President, or Second Vice-President (in the absence of the President) all checks for disbursement of Regional Council funds payable upon receipt of an authorized requisition; shall provide financial statements as required, at least quarterly, to the

Executive Committee and shall provide complete financial reports at the Regional Council meetings; shall perform other duties as assigned by the President, with approval of the Executive Committee. The Treasurer's books shall be subject to an annual audit as determined by the Executive Committee

SECTION 7. ASSISTANT TREASURER. The Assistant Treasurer shall maintain a record of all chapters' assessment status, submit notifications of assessments, verify amounts, report on the status of financial status of chapters, and verify members financial status for voting. The Assistant Treasurer shall perform the duties and functions of the treasurer during the absence or incapacitation of the Treasurer. This includes countersign with the President, First Vice-President, or Second Vice-President checks drawn on Regional Council Treasury; shall perform other duties as assigned by the President, with approval of the Executive Committee

SECTION 8. REGIONAL DIRECTORS. The Regional Directors shall serve as members of the National Board of Directors; shall be non-voting members of the Regional Council and the Executive Committee; shall present written reports on the activities of the Regional Council, action items and issues to the National Board of Directors; and shall appropriately provide reports on the activities, action items and issues of the National Board of Directors to the Regional Council. Perform other duties as prescribed by the National Board of Directors and the Regional Council.

SECTION 9. PARLIAMENTARIAN. The Parliamentarian shall be appointed by the Regional Council President and shall furnish parliamentary information to the presiding officer of the meeting upon request. Perform such other duties as may be required by the Regional Executive Committee.

SECTION 10. HISTORIAN/LIBRARIAN. The Historian/Librarian shall be appointed by the Regional Council President and shall retain custody of any collections of books, printed matter or any other documentation related to the Region and Blacks In Government; and compile a narrative and pictorial account of the Regional Council's activities for the year, which will become a permanent part of the Regional Council's history; shall perform other duties as may be required by the Regional Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VIII

MEETINGS AND QUORUMS

SECTION 1. The Regional Council shall hold at least four Regional Council regular business meetings annually. The regular meetings of the Regional Council shall be held in January, April, July and October of each year unless otherwise ordered by the Council or the Executive Committee. The election of officers shall be held during the October meeting. A quorum requirement is identified in the standing rules of the Council, and representatives must be in good financial standing and their chapter assessments current.

SECTION 2. The Regional Council may hold an annual Regional Training Conference in conjunction with a regular quarterly meeting each year. The Regional Council

shall determine the time and place of the training conference.

SECTION 3. The purpose of the regular business meetings shall be to conduct the business of the Region; receive reports from the Regional Directors, Regional Council Officers, and Chapters of their activities and issues.

SECTION 4. The purpose of the annual regional training conference will be to provide training and education in areas of concern in the Region.

SECTION 5. **Regional Executive Committee.** The Regional Executive Committee shall meet at least quarterly. Additional meetings may be scheduled/called by the Regional Council President, to conduct routine Regional Executive Committee business in between quarterly meetings. A simple majority of the voting members of the Regional Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum.

SECTION 6. A. **Special Meetings.** Special meetings of the Regional Executive Committee may be called at any time by the President or upon the written request of three (3) members of the Executive Committee. The purpose of the meeting shall be stated in the request call and at least seven (7) days written notice shall be given to each member. In cases of emergency at least forty-eight (48) hours written notice shall be given to each member.

B. Special meetings of the Regional Council may be called at any time by the President, or upon the written request to the President by a minimum of five (5) Chapters' representatives of the Council. The purpose of the meeting shall be stated in the request and at least fourteen (14) days written notice shall be given to each chapter. In cases of emergency, at least seventy-two (72) hours written notice shall be given to each chapter.

SECTION 7. **Standing Committees.** The Committee Chair shall call scheduled meetings of the Standing Committees at any time. Committee activities shall be reported to the Regional Council President. Special meetings may be called by the Chair or by three (3) members of any committee on 48 hours notice. At least three (3) members of the committee shall constitute a quorum to conduct business.

ARTICLE IX

STANDING COMMITTEES AND DUTIES

SECTION 1. **STANDING COMMITTEES.** The Standing Committees shall include but not limited to the following:

- a. Finance
- b. Program and Planning
- c. Communication and Public Relations
- d. Legislative and Legal Review
- e. Conference Planning
- f. Membership
- g. Bylaws Committee

- SECTION 2.** Each committee shall be composed of a Chair and shall have an adequate number (odd number for voting purposes) of members for effective functioning as determined by the chair and approved by the Executive Committee.
- SECTION 3.** The Regional Council President with the approval of the Executive Committee shall appoint the Chair of each Standing Committee with the exception of the Finance Committee.
- SECTION 4.** The Treasurer shall appoint the Chair of the Finance Committee with the approval of the Executive Committee.
- SECTION 5.** The Chair of the respective committee shall select members of each committee.
- SECTION 6.** Committee Chairs are subject to removal by the Regional Council President or as directed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Executive Committee.
- SECTION 7.** All reports and recommendations generated by standing committees shall be submitted in writing to the Executive Committee through the Corresponding Secretary. A Committee Chair or a representative, at the request of the President or Executive Committee, may be required to present their report to the Executive Committee; shall submit a detailed written report of expenditures and receipts from all fund raising activities for the Region to the Treasurer.
- SECTION 8.** Chairs of Standing Committees shall submit an annual work plan and budget to the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee shall submit the plan and budget to the Executive Committee for approval. The Committee Chair shall submit a roster of committee members to the Executive Committee for approval.
- SECTION 9.** Special committees may be established at the discretion of the President with the approval of the Executive Committee to meet the Regional objectives lending themselves to a special or ad hoc committee structure. These committees shall serve at the discretion of the President as to the composition, duties and length of service.

A. Nominating Committee. The Regional Council President shall appoint the Nominating Committee Chair during the July quarterly meeting of the Regional Council. A Nominating Committee of three (3) members and alternates shall be selected by the Nominating Committee Chair to prepare a slate of nominees for the appropriate regional offices. The Committee shall notify all Region IX, Chapters of the upcoming election, to seek the initial slate of candidates for the offices to be voted on at least (30) days prior to the election in October.

B. Elections Committee. The Elections Committee shall conduct the election at the quarterly meeting held in October. At the quarterly meeting held in the fall, the Election Committee of Three (3) members shall be selected by the Election Chair and approved by the Council. It shall be the duty of this committee to conduct the annual Regional elections. This shall include the establishment of appropriate machinery, provisions, and procedures for conducting Regional elections. Prepare the official ballot(s) reflecting the candidates for each office. Conduct the

actual election of officers in conjunction with the slate of officers presented by the Nominating Committee. The Election Committee shall present the election results to the Regional Council Secretary.

ARTICLE X

DUTIES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

- SECTION 1. FINANCE.** The Finance Committee shall develop the Council's yearly budget to be submitted in the Fall for the next fiscal year, shall develop and implement ways and means to raise funds with Executive Committee approval; shall submit a written report to the secretary to be recorded in minutes; shall submit a detailed report of expenditures and receipts from all fund raising activities for the Region.
- SECTION 2. PROGRAM AND PLANNING COMMITTEE.** The Program and Planning Committee shall develop comprehensive and ongoing general programs to meet the Strategic Plan's goals and objectives of the Region.
- SECTION 3. COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS.** The Communication and Public Relations Committee shall develop, implement, and maintain a publicity and public relations program within the Region with the general public. These include the generation of media coverage for all regional events; review and issuance of news releases, and publicize and project a positive image of the Region and Regional Officers. This committee shall be responsible for publishing the official Regional Newsletter, and maintaining an official Regional website.
- SECTION 4. LEGISLATIVE AND LEGAL REVIEW.** The Legislative and Legal Review Committee shall review and analyze all proposed and existing legislation and program policy change to determine potential impacts on Black government employees; shall review all legal decisions involving policy interpretations affecting Black government employees and develop recommended strategies for the Regional Council to submit to the National Organization. A member from each chapter shall have the right to serve on this committee.
- SECTION 5. CONFERENCE PLANNING.** The Conference Planning Committee shall develop and implement plans for the Annual Training Conference to include action subcommittees for finance and budget, training and education, speakers, banquet, annual business meetings, communication and public relations and exhibits.
- SECTION 6. MEMBERSHIP.** The Membership Committee shall develop a comprehensive ongoing general program for the Region addressing chapter information, recruitment, and accountability of all regional chapter members. The committee shall also assist the Chapters validation of membership rosters and membership issues with BIG National.
- SECTION 7. BYLAWS.** The Bylaws Committee shall render Constitutional opinions to the Executive Committee and the Regional Council; shall periodically review the Regional Bylaws, Chapter Bylaws, along with the National Constitution and recommend amendments where appropriate; shall offer opinions on the

constitutionality of all policies effecting the Bylaws or the BIG National Constitution; shall be responsible for incorporating all approved amendments into the Regional Bylaws and distribute them via the Regional Secretary to the Chapters thirty (30) days prior to the next Regional Meeting. Subsequent to approval by the Regional Council, this Committee shall disseminate the amended Bylaws via the Secretary to all chapters in Region IX within sixty (60) days.

ARTICLE XI

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

- SECTION 1. NOMINATIONS.** Nominations for Regional offices shall be submitted to and developed by the Nominations Committee. Chapters may submit nominations, provided that such names are representatives of the Regional Council and that such names are provided to the Committee at least (30) days prior to the October Regional Council Meeting and meet the criteria stated herein. Regional Council Representatives, as addressed in article three (III) section two (2), may also make nominations from the floor during the Regional Council meeting held in October.
- SECTION 2. ELECTIONS/TERM OF OFFICE.** Regional elections shall be held annually during the month of October. The term of office for each elected officer shall be two (2) years and shall be staggered. For the purpose of maintaining continuity, the election of regional officers shall be alternated as follows:
- A. **Elected Officers.** The President, Second Vice President, the Corresponding Secretary, and the Assistant Treasurer shall be elected the even numbered years. The First Vice President, Third Vice President, the Treasurer, and the Secretary shall be elected in the odd numbered years.
 - B. Elections shall be held by secret ballot.
 - C. All nominees shall receive a simple majority of the votes cast by the Regional Council membership. In the event of a tie, a run-off vote shall continue until one nominee receives a majority of the votes cast.
 - D. When only one (1) candidate is nominated for an office that candidate shall be elected by acclamation.
 - E. Regional Council Officers shall begin their term of office on January 1 following their election.
 - F. No elected/appointed officer shall serve more than one office at a time, and no member shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office. After serving two (2) consecutive terms in an office, an officer may be eligible to serve in that office after sitting out at least one term. Officers filling an un-expired office are eligible to serve for two (2) consecutive terms in that office.

SECTION 3. ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICE. At the time of nominations, all nominees shall be a member of the Regional Council and be in good financial standing at the Chapter, Region and National level. All nominees shall have held an elected office at a Chapter or Regional Level for at least one full term (two years).

SECTION 4. VACANCIES. In the event of a vacancy in the Office of the President, the First Vice President shall become President. All other vacant offices shall be appointed by the Regional Council Executive Committee and ratified by the Regional Council, until the next election.

ARTICLE XII

DUES AND ASSESSMENTS

SECTION 1. The Regional Council shall be self-sustaining.

SECTION 2. The fiscal year shall be from January 1 to December 31, inclusive.

SECTION 3. ASSESSMENTS. Annual Regional assessments for each chapter shall be based on the number of members listed on the National roll as financial as of January 1st. Assessments are payable by January 31 of each year or at the first Regional Council meeting of the calendar year. Assessments shall not be prorated.

SECTION 4. GOOD FINANCIAL STANDING. A Chapter is considered in "good financial standing" with the region upon paying annual Regional Council dues and filing the annual financial report.

SECTION 5. The Executive Committee may recommend changes, subject to the approval of the Regional Council, regarding the amount of the assessments for the ensuing year.

SECTION 6. The chapter assessment amount is as stated in the Region's then current Standing Rules.

ARTICLE XIII

RESIGNATION, EXPULSION, SUSPENSION, REMOVAL, COMPLAINT OR VACANCIES

SECTION 1. CHAPTERS FAILING TO REPORT. If a Chapter fails to report to the Regional Council for a period of six (6) months, the Regional Council through the Regional Director(s) shall notify the National Board of Directors.

SECTION 2. SUSPENSION AND REVOCATION OF CHAPTER CHARTER. The Executive Committee shall make recommendations to the Regional Council for submission to the National Board of Directors through the Regional Director(s), the suspension or revocation of any chapter in the Region IX for cause. Such cause is defined as any conduct by a chapter that is detrimental to the National Organization.

SECTION 3. EXPULSION, SUPENSION, REMOVAL. Any Regional Council officer or member may be temporarily expelled, suspended, or removed by the Executive Committee by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote whenever the Executive Committee determines it is in the best interest of the organization, provided a hearing on charges has been conducted. Upon notification by the Executive Committee of temporary expulsion, suspension, or removal, the officer or member shall lose all of his or her rights of membership to the Regional Council, unless other disciplinary actions are taken. This action shall require approval of the Regional Council.

SECTION 4. GROUND FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION. Disciplinary actions may be brought against a Regional Council Officer or member who is guilty of conduct not in accord with the principles, aims, and purposes of this Region as set forth in these Bylaws and BIG National Constitution or is guilty of conduct that is not in the best interest of the National Organization.

- A. A complaint against a Regional Council Officer or member may be initiated by any three (3) members of the Regional Council and must be in writing and signed by such members and transmitted to the Regional Council President. Upon receipt thereof, the Regional Council President shall forward a copy of the complaint by registered mail to the Regional Council Officer or member at the last address on file. The Regional Council Officer or member shall have fifteen (15) calendar days from date of receipt of charges to answer in writing.
- B. The Regional Council reserves the right to hear and act upon charges brought and the Regional Council Officer or member is entitled to a hearing before the Regional Council if desired. The Regional Council Officer or member may elect to have the decision made ex-parte on the basis of the complaint and the answer. Regional Council may appoint a special committee to hear the matter and submit a recommendation to the Regional Council.
- C. Regional Council shall be the first level of appeal by either party for all complaints for which there has been final action at the Chapter level.

SECTION 5 VACANCIES. The President, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee, may appoint any member in good standing who meets the criteria for Regional office, to fill any Executive Committee position vacancy. Any member appointed to fill a vacancy in the Executive Committee will serve for the remainder of the term for which his or her predecessor was elected or appointed.

ARTICLE XIV

CHAPTER REPORTING REQUIREMENT

SECTION 1. Chapters shall file written reports at each Regional Council meeting and as required by the Regional Council or Executive Committee. All reports shall be submitted to the Regional Council President.

SECTION 2. Chapters that fail to report to the Regional Council for two (2) consecutive meetings, shall be notified by the Executive Committee of pending disciplinary action. The regional Council shall determine the disciplinary action.

ARTICLE XV

EXPENSES AND REIMBURSEMENT

SECTION 1. The Regional Council shall compensate all members of the Region who have been authorized by the Regional Council or Executive Committee to carry on the business of the Region in accordance with the budget. All reimbursable expenses except travel advances and/or travel reimbursement shall be paid as soon as possible after proper documentation is submitted.

SECTION 2. Upon request and with proper documentation, projected expenses may be advanced up to eighty percent (80%). At the conclusion of the travel, and with proper documentation, all unpaid reimbursable expenses shall be paid in full. Reimbursable expenses shall include hotel/motel cost not to exceed prevailing Government rate. Mileage cost for use of personal vehicle will be reimbursed by actual (approved) miles to and from meetings. The Executive Committee with the Regional Council approval will set mileage rate. Other modes of transportation chosen must be one that is most advantageous to the Region.

ARTICLE XVI

RULES OF PROCEDURES

Rules of procedures as stated in Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern the Regional Council in all cases to which they are applicable, except as other wise provided herein, and any special rules or order the council may adopt. This applies to all questions of procedures and parliamentary law not specified in these Bylaws or the National Constitution of Blacks In Government.

ARTICLE XVII

INCORPORATION

This Regional Council is a part of the National Organization of Blacks In Government and is incorporated as a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation under the appropriate laws of the District of Columbia.

ARTICLE XVIII

LIMITATIONS OF LIABILITY

SECTION 1. REGIONAL FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY. No chapter or member of the Regional Council shall have authority or power to impose or incur financial liability on the part of the Regional Council without the expressed authorization of the Regional Council in writing and obtained in advanced.

SECTION 2. REGIONAL LEGAL CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY. No chapter, officer, or member of the Regional Council shall have authority or power to legally obligate the Regional Council except as specified in these bylaws or authorized by the Regional

Council. The Regional Council shall indemnify any officer or member of this Regional Council for actions taken during the performance of duties on behalf of the Regional Council so long as said actions are consistent with the honest integrity, goals, and objectives of the Regional Council.

SECTION 3. INDEBTEDNESS. The Regional Council will not be responsible for indebtedness or obligation of any chapter or by any of their officers or agents except as specified in these bylaws or authorized by the Regional Council. The Regional Council President shall be authorized to make expenditures or obligations not to exceed \$1,000.00 annually without prior approval of the Executive Committee. All other expenditures shall be made with the approval of the Executive Committee, subject to review by the Regional Council.

SECTION 4. DISTRIBUTION OF ASSETS AND PROPERTIES. In the event of voluntary dissolution of any chapter, its property shall be forwarded to the Regional Council. The assets of the chapters shall in no event be distributed to any of its members or officers, or other organizations.

ARTICLE XIX

AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS


SECTION 1. These bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the Council by a two-third (2/3) vote, provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing to all chapters in Region IX thirty (30) days prior to that regular meeting. Amendments made to the bylaws shall be mailed to all chapters in Region IX within sixty (60) days after they have been amended.

SECTION 2. No article or section of these bylaws shall conflict with those of the National Constitution of Blacks In Government.

ARTICLE XX


RATIFICATION

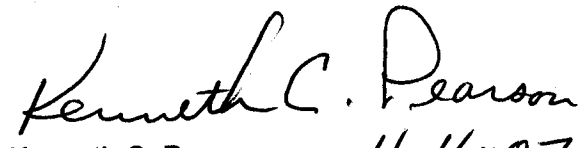
These Bylaws shall become effective upon the ratification by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Council members present and eligible to vote at the regular meeting of the Regional Council held on October 20, 2007 in San Diego, California.


Sam Maze 11-15-07
Regional Council President Date


Edna P. White 10/23/07
Regional Council Secretary Date

REVIEWED BY: (At Least One Director)


Toni Martin 11-16-07
Regional Director Date


Kenneth C. Pearson 11-16-07
Regional Director Date

FINAL REVIEW:


Gary L. Blackmon 1/19/08
Chair, National Board of Directors, BIG Date