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# BYLAWS

Ventura County Coastal Association of REALTORS®

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# BYLAWS OF THE

Ventura County Coastal Association of REALTORS<sup>®</sup>, Inc.

## ARTICLE I ASSOCIATION STATEMENTS

**Section 1. Name.** The name of this organization shall be the VENTURA COUNTY COASTAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS<sup>®</sup>, Incorporated (hereinafter referred to as the "A.O.R").

**Section 2. REALTOR<sup>®</sup> Membership Mark in Name of Association.** Inclusion and retention of the registered collective membership mark "REALTORS<sup>®</sup>" in the name of the A.O.R. shall be governed by the Constitution and Bylaws of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS<sup>®</sup> (hereinafter "NAR") as from time to time amended.

## ARTICLE II OBJECTIVES

**Section 1. Objectives.** The objectives of the A.O.R. are:

- A. To unite those engaged in the recognized branches of the real estate profession for the purpose of exerting a beneficial influence upon the profession and related interests. The "recognized branches of the real estate profession" include buying, selling, exchanging, renting or leasing, managing, appraising for others for compensation, financing, building, developing or subdividing real estate.
- B. To promote and maintain high standards of conduct in the real estate profession as expressed in the Code of Ethics of NAR (hereinafter "Code of Ethics").
- C. To provide a unified medium for real estate owners and those engaged in the real estate profession whereby their interests may be safeguarded and advanced.
- D. To further the interests of home and other real property ownership.
- E. To unite those engaged in the real estate profession in this community with the CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS<sup>®</sup> (hereinafter "C.A.R.") and NAR thereby furthering their own objectives throughout the state and nation, and obtaining the benefits and privileges of membership therein.
- F. To designate, for the benefit of the public, those individuals within the state of California authorized to use the terms REALTOR<sup>®</sup> and REALTORS<sup>®</sup> as licensed, prescribed, and controlled by N.A.R

## ARTICLE III NATIONAL AND STATE MEMBERSHIPS

**Section 1. Association Membership in NAR and C.A.R.** A.O.R. shall be a member of NAR and C.A.R. as defined in the governing documents of NAR and C.A.R. By reason of A.O.R. membership in NAR and C.A.R., each REALTOR<sup>®</sup> member of A.O.R. shall be entitled to membership in NAR and C.A.R. without further payment of dues. A.O.R. shall continue as a member of NAR and C.A.R., unless by a majority vote of all of its

REALTOR® members the decision is made to withdraw, in which case NAR and C.A.R. shall be notified in writing at least one month in advance of the date designated for the termination of A.O.R.'s membership.

**Section 2. Ownership and Use of REALTOR® Membership Marks.** The A.O.R. recognizes the exclusive property rights of NAR in the terms REALTOR® and REALTORS®. The A.O.R. may use the terms while it is a member in good standing of NAR. The A.O.R. shall discontinue use of the terms in any form in its name, upon ceasing to be a member of NAR, or upon a determination by the Board of Directors of NAR that it has violated the conditions imposed upon use of the terms.

**Section 3. Adoption & Enforcement of NAR Code of Ethics; Compliance with NAR & C.A.R. Governing Documents & Policies.** The A.O.R. adopts the NAR Code of Ethics and agrees to enforce the Code of Ethics among its REALTOR® members. The A.O.R. and all of its members agree to abide by the Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, Code of Ethics, and policies of NAR and C.A.R.

**Section 4. Other Association Rules, Regulations & Policies.** The A.O.R. may adopt any Rules and Regulations or policies not inconsistent with the Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, Code of Ethics, and policies of NAR and C.A.R. and these Bylaws. Any inconsistencies between the A.O.R.'s Rules and Regulations or policies and the Bylaws of the A.O.R. (hereinafter "Bylaws") shall be controlled by the Bylaws.

## **ARTICLE IV JURISDICTION**

**Section 1. Description of Jurisdiction.** The territorial jurisdiction of the A.O.R. as a member of NAR is:

**NORTHERN BOUNDARY:** Santa Barbara County line at the Pacific Ocean in a straight line to the Northern terminus of Casitas Springs and Highway 33. From Highway 33 to Sulphur Mountain Road in a Northerly line to Sisar Road in a line intersecting at Piru Canyon Road to the Ventura/Los Angeles County line.

**EASTERN BOUNDARY:** Southeasterly along the Ventura/Los Angeles County line to the Santa Clara River. Southwest along the Santa Clara River to Guiberson Road until the intersection with Highway 23, south on Highway 23 until it intersects with the Rancho Simi boundary, continuing southwest until its intersection with the northeast corner of the Rancho Los Posas, southerly along the easterly line of said Rancho and along the easterly line of Rancho Calleguas to the southeasterly corner of said Rancho Calleguas, thence westerly 11,000 feet along the southerly line of the Rancho Calleguas; thence due south 6,000 feet; thence due west 1,000 feet; thence due south 1,000 feet; then due west 2,000 feet; thence due south to a point which is 200 feet south of the southerly line of Potrero Road; thence from said point and along a line which is parallel and at all times 200 feet south of the southerly line of said road, until its intersection with Hueneme Road and the northernmost line of the Rancho Guadaluca. Thence, south and southwesterly along said Rancho to its intersection with the Pacific Ocean.

SOUTHERN BOUNDARY: From the Rancho Guadalupe boundary and the Pacific Ocean, westerly along the shoreline to the Santa Barbara County line.

Including the following communities: La Conchita, Seacliff, Faria Beach, Ventura, Foster Park, Montalvo, Saticoy, Oxnard, El Rio, Port Hueneme, Santa Paula, Fillmore, Bardsdale (part), Somis, Camarillo, Leisure Village, Buckhorn, Piru, Casitas Springs (Part), Solimar Beach, Nyelands Acres, Colonia.

**Section 2. Jurisdictional Rights.** Territorial jurisdiction is defined to mean the right and duty to control the use of the terms REALTOR® and REALTORS® subject to the conditions set forth in the Bylaws and those of NAR, and to protect and safeguard the property rights of NAR in those terms.

## ARTICLE V

### MEMBERSHIP, QUALIFICATION, APPLICATION AND ACCEPTANCE

**Section 1. Classes of Membership.** There shall be six (6) classes of membership: (1) REALTOR® Members; (2) Institute Affiliate Members; (3) Affiliate Members; (4) Public Service Members; (5) Honorary Members; and (6) Student Members.

### **Section 2. Qualifications of REALTOR® Members**

**2.1** REALTOR® members, whether primary or secondary, who are principals, partners, corporate officers or branch office managers of real estate firms shall:

- A. Maintain a current, valid California real estate broker or salesperson license or California real estate appraisal certification or license; and
- B. Act as a sole proprietor, partner, corporate officer of a real estate firm or office manager of a real estate firm acting on behalf of the firm's principal(s); and
- C. Remain actively engaged in the real estate profession;
- D. Maintain or be associated with a real estate office located within the state of California or a state contiguous thereto; and
- E. Have no record of official sanctions rendered by the courts or other lawful authorities for (i) violations of civil rights laws or real estate license laws within the past three years or (ii) criminal convictions within the past ten years where the crime was punishable by death or imprisonment in excess of one year under the law under which the applicant was convicted (ten years is measured from the date of the conviction or the release of the applicant from the confinement imposed for that conviction, whichever is the later date). (rev 7/17)

**2.2** REALTOR® members, whether primary or secondary, other than principals, partners, corporate officers, or branch office managers of real estate firms shall:

- A. Maintain a current, valid California real estate broker or salesperson license or California real estate appraisal certification or license; and
- B. Remain actively engaged in the real estate profession;

- C. Remain employed by or affiliated as an independent contractor with a REALTOR® member who meets the requirements in Section 2.1 of this Article V for any Association in California or a state contiguous thereto; and
- D. Have no record of official sanctions rendered by the courts or other lawful authorities for (i) violations of civil rights laws or real estate license laws within the past three years or (ii) criminal convictions within the past ten years where the crime was punishable by death or imprisonment in excess of one year under the law under which the applicant was convicted (ten years is measured from the date of the conviction or the release of the applicant from the confinement imposed for that conviction, whichever is the later date). (rev 7/17)

**2.3** REALTOR® members may be franchise corporate officers as described below in Article V, Section 2.8.

**2.4** Each firm shall designate in writing one "Designated REALTOR®" member who shall be responsible for the conduct of individuals affiliated with the firm and accountable to the A.O.R. for all duties and obligations of A.O.R. membership, including, but not limited to, certification as set forth in Article VI, Section 11. The "Designated REALTOR®" must be the sole proprietor, partner, corporate officer or an office manager acting on behalf of the firm's principal(s) and must have the authority to bind the firm in arbitrations and must meet all the other qualifications for REALTOR® membership set forth in Article V, Sections 2.1 of the Bylaws.

**2.5** Association of Choice.

- A. Primary Membership. Licensees affiliated with a REALTOR® firm may choose as their "primary" Association any Association within California where the firm maintains a "Designated REALTOR®." If a REALTOR® is a primary member of the A.O.R., the A.O.R. pays C.A.R. and NAR dues for that individual.
- B. Secondary Membership. A REALTOR® who has joined another Association as a primary member may join this A.O.R. as a secondary member. There need not be a Designated REALTOR® member of this A.O.R. for licensees to select this A.O.R. as their secondary Association. The conditions for secondary membership shall be no more stringent than for primary membership, and the privileges of membership shall be the same including the right to vote and hold office.

**2.6** All persons who are partners in a partnership or officers in a corporation, and actively engaged in the real estate profession within the state of California or a state contiguous thereto or are franchise corporate officers as described below shall be ineligible for any class of membership other than REALTOR® membership. Each is required to hold REALTOR® membership individually in a local Association in California (except as provided in Section 2.7) or in a state contiguous thereto, if they meet all the other qualifications set forth in Article V, Sections 2.1, 2.2, or 2.3 of the Bylaws unless they otherwise qualify for Institute Affiliate membership as described in Article V, Section 3.

**2.7** In the case of a real estate firm, partnership or corporation whose business activity is substantially all commercial, only those principals actively engaged in the real estate



business in connection with the same office, or any other offices within the jurisdiction of the A.O.R. in which one of the firm's principals holds REALTOR® membership, shall be required to hold REALTOR® membership unless otherwise qualified for Institute Affiliate Membership as described in Article V, Section 3.

**2.8** Notwithstanding any other provision herein, franchise corporate officers of real estate brokerage franchise organizations with at least one hundred fifty franchisees located within the United States, its insular possessions and the commonwealth of Puerto Rico, may be elected to membership pursuant to the Constitution and Bylaws of NAR (hereinafter "Franchise Corporate Officers"). Franchise Corporate Officers may or may not be licensed for California real estate broker or salesperson or appraisal activities. Franchise Corporate Officers shall enjoy all of the rights, privileges and obligations of REALTOR® membership, including compliance with the Code of Ethics, except: obligations related to A.O.R. mandated education, meeting attendance, or indoctrination classes or other similar requirements, if any; the right to use the term REALTOR® in connection with their franchise organization's name; and the right to hold elective office in the A.O.R., C.A.R., and NAR

**Section 3. Qualifications for Institute Affiliate Members.** Institute Affiliate members shall be individuals who hold a professional designation awarded by a Institute, Society or Council affiliated with the NAR that addresses a specialty area other than residential brokerage or individuals who otherwise hold a class of membership in such Institute, Society or Council that confers the right to hold office. Any such individual, if otherwise eligible, may elect to hold REALTOR® membership subject to payment of applicable dues for such membership.

**Section 4. Qualifications for Affiliate Members.** Affiliate members shall be real estate owners, and other individuals or firms engaged in activities related to the real estate profession, who do not qualify for REALTOR® membership. Affiliate members have interests requiring information concerning real estate and sympathy with the objectives of the A.O.R.

**Section 5. Qualifications for Public Service Members.** Public Service members shall be those members who maintain an interest in the real estate profession as employees or affiliates of educational, public utility, governmental or other similar organizations and are not engaged in the real estate profession on their own account or with an established real estate business.

**Section 6. Qualifications for Honorary Members.** Honorary members shall be those persons recognized by the Board of Directors as persons who have performed notable service for the real estate profession, for the A.O.R., or for the public though not engaged in the real estate profession.

**Section 7. Qualifications for Student Members.** Student members shall be students enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate degree program at an institution of higher education with a specialization or major in real estate, or who are seeking to obtain a real estate license or appraiser's license but who are not eligible for REALTOR® membership.

## **Section 8. Membership Application.**

- A. Each applicant for membership shall submit an application in such manner and form as may be prescribed by the A.O.R. Board of Directors (hereinafter "Board of Directors") and give his or her consent that the Board of Directors, through A.O.R. Membership Manager. or otherwise, may obtain information about the applicant from any member, other persons or Associations and that any information furnished to the Board of Directors by any member, person or Association shall not form the basis of any action for slander, libel or defamation of character. The Board of Directors, through its Membership Manager or otherwise, may consider the following in determining an applicant's qualifications for membership: (1) all final findings of NAR Code of Ethics violations and violations of other membership duties in any other Association within the past three (3) years; (2) pending ethics complaints or hearings; (3) unsatisfied discipline pending; (4) pending arbitration requests or hearings; (5) unpaid arbitration awards or unpaid financial obligations to any other Association or Association Multiple Listing Service ("MLS"). (rev 7/17)
- B. Applicants for membership shall be familiar with and agree to abide by the Bylaws and Rules and Regulations of the A.O.R., the Bylaws of C.A.R. and the NAR Constitution, Bylaws and Code of Ethics, to the extent they are applicable, and pass such reasonable and nondiscriminatory written examination thereon as may be required by the Membership Manager. Applicants must also complete an orientation program as may be required by the Board of Directors, its Membership Manager, or otherwise, said program to be attended in-person or, upon request, through remote means if available. (rev 7/17)
- C. Applicants for REALTOR® membership shall certify: (1) that they have no record of official sanctions rendered by the courts or other lawful authorities for violations of civil rights laws or real estate license laws within the past three years; (2) that they have no criminal convictions within the past ten years where the crime was punishable by death or imprisonment in excess of one year under the law under which the applicant was convicted (ten years is measured from the date of the conviction or the release of the applicant from the confinement imposed for that conviction, whichever is the later date); and (3) that they have not been suspended or expelled from an Association in the past three years for violations of the NAR Code of Ethics. (rev 7/17)
- D. Applicants who are sole proprietors, general partners, corporate officers, or branch office managers (Article V, Section 2) of a real estate firm must disclose: (1) whether they or their firms are subject to any pending bankruptcy proceedings; and (2) whether they or their firms have been adjudged bankrupt within the past three (3) years. If the applicant is party to pending bankruptcy or insolvency proceedings or has been adjudged bankrupt within the past three (3) years, the applicant may be required to pay cash in advance for A.O.R. and MLS fees for up to one year from the date that membership is approved or from the date that the applicant is discharged from bankruptcy, whichever is later. If the Board of

Directors determines that such prepayments will not protect the interests of the A.O.R. or its members, such applications may be rejected.

**Section 9. Prior Membership Records.** The A.O.R. may consider information received from other Associations in determining whether an applicant satisfies the A.O.R.'s membership requirements. The A.O.R. may request from any Association where the applicant held prior membership, minimum "core" information including:

- A. All final findings of Code of Ethics violations and violations of other membership duties within the past three (3) years;
- B. Pending complaints alleging violations of the Code of Ethics or alleging violations of other membership duties;
- C. Incomplete or (pending) disciplinary measures;
- D. Pending arbitration requests (or hearings);
- E. Unpaid arbitration awards or unpaid financial obligations to the Association or its MLS; and
- F. Any misuse of the term REALTOR® or REALTORS® in the name of the applicant's firm.

The A.O.R. will also consider all final findings of Code of Ethics violations and violations of other membership duties in this A.O.R. within the past three (3) years.

**Section 10. Application Review and Acceptance.** The procedure for acceptance to REALTOR® membership shall be as follows:

- A. The Membership Manager shall determine whether the applicant is applying for the appropriate class of membership. It shall then give written notice to the REALTOR® members of such application and invite written comment. If one or more of the REALTOR® members object to the approval of the application, basing such objection on lack of qualification as set forth in the Bylaws, the Membership Manager shall invite any objecting member to appear and substantiate his or her objections. Objections which are not substantiated shall be totally disregarded. The Membership Manager must: (1) inform the applicant in advance, in writing, of any objections and identify the objecting member; and (2) give the applicant an opportunity to appear before the Membership Manager and establish his or her qualifications. The Membership Manager may also request "core" information as defined in Article V, Section 9, from any Association of which the applicant was previously a member. The Membership Manager shall thereafter make a written report of their findings. The Membership Manager shall conduct all proceedings with strict attention to the principles of due process and compliance with the Bylaws. (rev 7/17)
- B. Within twenty (20) days, the Membership Manager shall report their recommendation to the applicant and Board of Directors in writing. If the recommendation is to reject the application, the reasons shall be specifically stated. The applicant shall also be notified of his or her right to appear before the Board of Directors. (rev 7/17)

- C. The Board of Directors shall review the qualifications of the applicant and the recommendations of the Membership Manager and then vote on the applicant's eligibility for membership. If the applicant appears, he or she may be represented by counsel, call witnesses on his or her behalf and make such statements as he or she deems relevant. The Board of Directors may also have counsel present. If the applicant receives a majority vote of the Board of Directors, he or she shall be declared accepted as a member and shall be advised by written notice. An application for Institute Affiliate Membership shall be acted upon by the Board of Directors within forty-five (45) days from the date of application for membership. (rev 7/17)
- D. If the Board of Directors determines that the application should be rejected, it shall record its reasons. If the Board of Directors believes that denial of membership to the applicant may become the basis of litigation and a claim of damage by the applicant, it may specify that denial shall become effective upon entry in a suit by the A.O.R. for a declaratory judgment by a court of competent jurisdiction of a final judgment declaring that the rejection violates no rights of the applicant.
- E. The Board of Directors, through its Membership Manager or otherwise, may grant "provisional" membership to an applicant in instances where ethics complaints or arbitration requests or hearings are pending in other Associations or where the applicant for membership has unsatisfied discipline pending in another Association, except provided all other qualifications for membership have been satisfied. Provisional members shall be considered REALTORS® and shall be subject to all of the same privileges and obligations of REALTOR® membership. The Board of Directors may reconsider the membership status of provisional members when all pending ethics and arbitration matters and related discipline have been resolved or if such matters are not resolved within six (6) months from the date that provisional membership is approved. At the time of reconsideration, if the Board of Directors determines that the individual has not satisfactorily resolved the pending ethics or arbitration matter, at the discretion of the Board of Directors, membership may be terminated. Any dues paid by the provisional member shall be prorated from the date of application to the date of termination, and the remaining dues shall be returned to the terminated provisional member. (rev 7/17)
- F. If a member resigns from another Association with an ethics complaint or arbitration request pending, the Board of Directors may condition membership on the applicant's certification that he or she will submit to the pending ethics or arbitration proceeding, in accordance with the procedures of the A.O.R., and will abide by the decision of the hearing panel.

**Section 11. New Member Code of Ethics Orientation.** Applicants for REALTOR® membership and provisional REALTOR® members (where applicable) shall complete an orientation program on the Code of Ethics, meeting the minimum criteria established by NAR for new member ethics training. This requirement does not apply to applicants for REALTOR® membership or provisional members who have completed comparable orientation in another Association, provided that REALTOR® membership has been

continuous, or that any break in membership is for one year or less. Failure to satisfy this requirement within 30 days of the date of application (or, alternatively, the date that provisional membership was granted), will result in denial of the membership application or termination of provisional membership. (rev 7/17, 2/19)

**Section 12. Continuing Member Code of Ethics Training.** Every two year period, starting with the period from January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2018, and for successive two year periods thereafter, each REALTOR® member of the A.O.R. shall be required to complete a course on the Code of Ethics, meeting the minimum criteria established by NAR for biennial ethics training. This requirement will be satisfied upon presentation of documentation that the member has completed such course of instruction conducted by this or another Association, C.A.R., NAR, or any other recognized educational institution. REALTOR® members who have completed training as a requirement of membership in another Association and REALTOR® members who have completed the New Member Code of Ethics Orientation during any two year cycle shall not be required to complete additional ethics training until a new two year period commences.

Failure to satisfy this requirement shall be considered a violation of a membership duty and will result in suspension of membership for the first two months (January and February) of the year following the end of any two year cycle or until the requirement is met, whichever occurs sooner. On March 1 of that year, the membership of a member who is still suspended as of that date for failure to complete the training requirement will be automatically terminated.

**Section 13. Status Changes.**

- A. REALTORS® who change the conditions under which they hold membership shall be required to provide written notification to the A.O.R. within thirty (30) days. A non-principal REALTOR® who becomes a principal in the firm with which he or she has been licensed or, becomes a principal in a new firm which will be comprised of REALTOR® principals, may be required to satisfy any previously unsatisfied membership requirements applicable to principal REALTOR® members. During the period of transition from one status of membership to another, such members shall be subject to all of the privileges and obligations of a principal REALTOR® member. The Board of Directors, at its discretion, may waive any qualification which the member has already fulfilled in accordance with the Bylaws. If the REALTOR® does not satisfy the requirements established in the Bylaws for the category of membership to which they have transferred within thirty (30) days of the date they advised the A.O.R. of their change in status, their application for change of status will terminate automatically unless otherwise so directed by the Board of Directors.
- B. If the licensed status of any member is terminated, his or her membership in the A.O.R. shall terminate automatically. If any member ceases to meet any other ongoing qualification of membership, his or her membership may be terminated

by the Board of Directors. Each member shall have the affirmative duty to notify the A.O.R. of any changes in their licensee status.

- C. Any application fee related to a change in membership status shall be reduced by an amount equal to any application fee previously paid by the applicant. Dues shall be prorated from the first day of the month in which the member is notified of acceptance by the Board of Directors of his or her change in status and shall be based on the new membership status for the remainder of the year.

**Section 14. Resignation.** Resignations of members shall become effective when received in writing by the Board of Directors, provided, however, that if any member submitting the resignation is indebted to the A.O.R. for dues, fees, fines or other assessments of the A.O.R. or any of its services, departments, divisions or subsidiaries, the A.O.R. may condition the right of the resigning member to reapply for membership upon payment in full of all such monies owed.

## **ARTICLE VI PRIVILEGES AND DUTIES OF MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1. Member Compliance with Bylaws, Policies, Rules and Regulations.** It shall be the duty of every member of the A.O.R. to abide by the Bylaws, Policies and Rules and Regulations of the A.O.R. Any member of the A.O.R. may be reprimanded, fined, placed on probation, suspended, or expelled by the Board of Directors for a violation of the Bylaws or the Rules and Regulations of the A.O.R. If a hearing is required, it shall be held in accordance with the *California Code of Ethics and Arbitration Manual*.

Although only REALTOR® members are subject to the Code of Ethics and its enforcement by the A.O.R., all members are encouraged to abide by the principles established in the Code of Ethics and conduct their business and professional practices accordingly. Further, any non-REALTOR® member may, upon recommendation of a hearing panel of the Professional Standards Committee, be subject to discipline as described above, for any conduct, which in the opinion of the Board of Directors, reflects adversely on the real estate industry or the terms REALTOR® or REALTORS® and for conduct that is inconsistent with or adverse to the objectives and purposes of this A.O.R., C.A.R. or NAR

**Section 2. Member Discipline.**

- A. Any member of the A.O.R. may be reprimanded, placed on probation, suspended or expelled for harassment of an Association or MLS employee or Association officer or director after an investigation in accordance with the procedures of the A.O.R. As used in this section, harassment means any verbal or physical conduct including threatening or obscene language, unwelcome sexual advances, stalking, actions including strikes, shoves, kicks, or other similar physical contact, or threats to do the same, or any other conduct with the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance by creating a hostile, intimidating or offensive work environment. The decision of the

appropriate disciplinary action to be taken shall be made by the investigatory team comprised of the President, President-Elect and one member of the Board of Directors selected by the highest-ranking officer not named in the complaint, upon consultation with counsel for the A.O.R. Disciplinary action may include any sanction authorized in the *California Code of Ethics and Arbitration Manual*. If the complaint names the President or President-Elect, they may not participate in the proceedings and shall be replaced by the Immediate Past President or, alternatively, by another member of the Board of Directors selected by the highest-ranking officer not named in the complaint.

- B. Any REALTOR® member of the A.O.R. may be disciplined by the Board of Directors for violations of the Code of Ethics or other duties of membership after a hearing as described in the *California Code of Ethics and Arbitration Manual*, provided that the discipline imposed is consistent with NAR policy as set forth in the *California Code of Ethics and Arbitration Manual*.

**Section 3. Resignation with Pending Arbitration or Disciplinary Hearing.** If a member resigns from the A.O.R. or otherwise causes membership to terminate with a disciplinary complaint pending, the complaint shall be processed until the decision of the A.O.R. with respect to disposition of the complaint is final by this A.O.R. (if respondent does not hold membership in any other Association) or by any other Association in which the respondent continues to hold membership. If an ethics respondent resigns or otherwise causes membership in all Associations to terminate before an ethics complaint is filed alleging unethical conduct occurred while the respondent was a REALTOR®, the complaint, once filed, shall be processed until the decision of the Association with respect to disposition of the complaint is final. In any instance where an ethics hearing is held subsequent to an ethic respondent's resignation or membership termination, any discipline ratified by the Board of Directors shall be held in abeyance until such time as the respondent rejoins an Association of REALTORS®. (rev 7/17)

If a member resigns or otherwise causes membership to terminate, the duty to submit to arbitration continues in effect even after membership lapses or is terminated provided that the dispute arose while the former member was a member.

**Section 4. Voting Rights and Eligibility for Elective Office.** REALTOR® and Affiliate members, whether primary or secondary, in good standing whose financial obligations to the A.O.R. are paid in full, shall be entitled to vote and to hold elective office in the A.O.R. Proxy voting is not allowed. (rev 2/19)

**Section 5. Privileges and Duties of REALTOR® Members.**

- A. It shall be the duty and responsibility of every REALTOR® member of this A.O.R. to abide by the Constitution and Bylaws of C.A.R., the Constitution and Bylaws of NAR and to abide by the Code of Ethics as set forth in Article VI, Section 1 of these Bylaws.
- B. REALTOR® members have the primary responsibility to safeguard and promote the standards, interests and welfare of the A.O.R. and the real estate profession.

- C. REALTOR® members may use the terms REALTOR® and REALTORS® subject to the provisions of Article VIII.
- D. If a REALTOR® member who is a sole proprietor, principal in a firm, partner in a partnership, officer of a corporation, or branch office manager is suspended or expelled, his or her firm, partnership or corporation shall not use the terms REALTOR® or REALTORS® in connection with its business during the period of suspension or expulsion and the membership of all other principals, partners or corporate officers shall suspend or terminate during the period of suspension or expulsion, unless: (1) the disciplined member severs his or her connection with the firm, partnership or corporation; or (2) the disciplined member relinquishes management control of the firm.

The membership of REALTORS® who are employed or affiliated as independent contractors with the disciplined member shall suspend or terminate during the period of suspension or expulsion unless: (1) the disciplined member severs his or her connection with the firm, partnership or corporation; (2) the disciplined member relinquishes management control of the firm; or (3) the non-principal REALTOR® member elects to sever his or her connection with the disciplined member and affiliates with another REALTOR® member in good standing in the association. If a REALTOR® member other than a sole proprietor in a firm, partner in a partnership, officer of a corporation or branch office manager is suspended or expelled, the use of the terms REALTOR® or REALTORS® by the firm, partnership or corporation shall not be affected.

Removal of an individual from any form or degree of management control must be certified to the A.O.R. by the disciplined member and by the individual who is assuming management control. The signatures on such certification must be notarized.

The foregoing is not intended to preclude a suspended or expelled member from functioning as an employee or independent contractor, provided no management control is exercised.

- E. In any action taken against a principal REALTOR® member for suspension or expulsion, notice of such action shall be given to all REALTORS® employed by or affiliated as independent contractors with such REALTOR® member and they shall be advised that the provisions in this Article VI, Section 5 shall apply.

**Section 6. Privileges and Duties of Institute Affiliate Members.** Institute Affiliate members shall have the rights and privileges and be subject to the obligations prescribed by the Board of Directors consistent with the NAR Constitution and Bylaws.

**Section 7. Privileges and Duties of Affiliate Members.** Affiliate members shall have the rights and privileges and be subject to the obligations prescribed by the Board of Directors.



**Section 8. Privileges and Duties of Public Service Members.** Public Service members shall have the rights and privileges and be subject to the obligations prescribed by the Board of Directors.

**Section 9. Privileges and Duties of Honorary Members.** Honorary membership shall confer only the right to attend meetings and participate in discussions.

**Section 10. Privileges and Duties of Student Members.** Student members shall have the rights and privileges and be subject to the obligations prescribed by the Board of Directors.

**Section 11. Certification by Designated REALTOR®.** Designated REALTORS® shall certify to the A.O.R. during the first month of each fiscal year, on a form provided by the A.O.R., a complete listing of all individuals licensed or certified under California law, with the REALTOR® firm(s), and shall designate the primary association, if any, for each individual. These declarations shall be used for purposes of calculating dues under Article IX, Section 2 of the Bylaws. Designated REALTOR® members shall also notify the A.O.R. of any additional individual(s) licensed or certified with the firm(s) and of any individual whose affiliation with the firm was severed within thirty days of the date of affiliation or severance of the individual(s).

## **ARTICLE VII PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND ARBITRATION**

**Section 1. Professional Standards and Arbitration.** The responsibility of the A.O.R. and its members relating to the enforcement of the Code of Ethics, the disciplining of members, the arbitration of disputes, and the organization and procedures incident thereto shall be governed by the *California Code of Ethics and Arbitration Manual*, as published and from time to time amended by C.A.R., which by this reference is made a part of these Bylaws.

**Section 2. Member Compliance with NAR and C.A.R. Constitution, Bylaws, Policies, Rules, Regulations, and Code of Ethics.** It shall be the duty and responsibility of every REALTOR® member of this A.O.R. to abide by the Constitution and Bylaws and the Rules and Regulations of this A.O.R., the Constitution and Bylaws of C.A.R., the Constitution and Bylaws of NAR, and the Code of Ethics, including the duty to arbitrate controversies arising out of real estate transactions as specified by Article 17 of the NAR Code of Ethics and as further defined and in accordance with the procedures set forth in the *California Code of Ethics and Arbitration Manual* as from time to time amended by C.A.R. By becoming and remaining a member, every REALTOR® member agrees that he or she and the corporation or firm for which he or she acts as a partner, officer, principal, or branch office manager, will submit to arbitration through the A.O.R. all disputes with any other member or member of the public subject to the conditions set forth in the *California Code of Ethics and Arbitration Manual*.

**ARTICLE VIII  
USE OF THE TERMS REALTOR® AND REALTORS®**

**Section 1. Use and Control of REALTOR® Membership Marks.** Use of the terms REALTOR® and REALTORS® by members shall, at all times, be subject to the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws of NAR and to the Rules and Regulations prescribed by its Board of Directors. The A.O.R. shall have the authority to control, jointly and in full cooperation with NAR, use of the terms within its jurisdiction. Any misuse of the terms by members is a violation of a membership duty and may subject members to disciplinary action by the Board of Directors after a hearing as provided for in the C.A.R. *Code of Ethics and Arbitration Manual.*

**Section 2. Jurisdictional Limits on Use of REALTOR® Membership Marks.** REALTOR® members of the A.O.R. shall have the privilege of using the terms REALTOR® and REALTORS® in connection with their places of business within California, or a state contiguous thereto, so long as they remain REALTOR® members in good standing. No other class of members shall have this privilege.

**Section 3. Use of REALTOR® Membership Marks Dependent on Status of Firm Principals.** A REALTOR® member who is a principal of a real estate firm, partnership or corporation may use the terms REALTOR® and REALTORS® only if all the principals of such firm, partnership, or corporation who are actively engaged in the real estate profession within California, or a state contiguous thereto, are REALTOR® members.

- A. In the case of a REALTOR® member who is a principal of a real estate firm, partnership or corporation whose business activity is substantially all commercial, the right to use the term REALTOR® or REALTORS® shall be limited to office locations in which a principal, partner, corporate officer or branch office manager of the firm, partnership or corporation holds REALTOR® membership. If a firm, partnership or corporation operates additional places of business in which no principal, partner, corporate officer or branch office manager holds REALTOR® membership, the term REALTOR® or REALTORS® may not be used in any reference to those additional places of business.

**Section 4. Institute Affiliate Members Ineligible to Use REALTOR® Membership Marks.** Institute Affiliate members shall not use the terms REALTOR® or REALTORS® nor the imprint of the emblem seal of NAR

**ARTICLE IX  
DUES AND ASSESSMENTS**

**Section 1. Application Fee.** The Board of Directors may adopt a reasonable application fee for membership in the A.O.R. The application fee for REALTOR® membership shall not exceed three (3) times the amount of the annual dues for REALTOR® membership. The application fee shall be required to accompany each application for membership in the A.O.R. and shall become the property of the A.O.R. upon final approval of the application.

## **Section 2. Dues.**

- A. The Board of Directors shall determine annually the amount of annual dues to be paid by each class of membership.
- B. The dues of each Designated REALTOR<sup>®</sup> member shall be a base amount plus an amount multiplied by the number of real estate licensees and licensed or certified appraisers under California law to which he or she certified under Article VI, Section 11, and who: (1) are employed by or affiliated as independent contractors or who are otherwise directly or indirectly licensed or certified with such REALTOR<sup>®</sup> member; and (2) are not REALTOR<sup>®</sup> members of any Association within California or a state contiguous thereto or Institute Affiliate members of this A.O.R. In calculating the dues payable to the A.O.R. by a Designated REALTOR<sup>®</sup> member, non-member licensees as defined in (1) and (2) of this sub-paragraph shall not be included in the computation of dues if the Designated REALTOR<sup>®</sup> has paid dues based on non-member licensees to another Association within the state of California or a state contiguous thereto, provided the Designated REALTOR<sup>®</sup> notifies the A.O.R. in writing of the identity of the Association to which dues have been remitted.

A REALTOR<sup>®</sup> with a direct or indirect ownership interest in an entity engaged exclusively in soliciting and/or referring clients and customers to the REALTOR<sup>®</sup> for consideration on a substantially exclusive basis ("LFRO") shall annually file with the association on a form approved by the association a list of the licensees affiliated with that entity and shall certify that all of the licensees affiliated with the entity are solely engaged in referring clients and customers and are not engaged in listing, selling, leasing, renting, managing, counseling, appraising or arranging financing for real property and are not a participant or subscriber in a Multiple Listing Service ("MLS"). The individuals disclosed on such form shall not be deemed to be licensed with the REALTOR<sup>®</sup> filing the form for purposes of this Article IX, Section 2 (b) and shall not be included in calculating the annual dues of the Designated REALTOR<sup>®</sup>.

A REALTOR<sup>®</sup> with a direct or indirect ownership interest in an entity engaged in the real estate business which provides services for which a Mortgage Loan Originator ("MLO") license endorsement is required may annually file with the association, on a form approved by the association, a list of the MLO licensees and certify that the listed licenses (1) have a MLO license or endorsement, (2) are not engaged in real estate licensed activities except those for which an MLO is required, and (3) are not participants or subscribers in any MLS. The individuals disclosed on such forms shall not be deemed to be licensed with the REALTOR<sup>®</sup> filing the form for purposes of this Article IX, Section 2(b) and shall not be included in calculating the annual dues of the Designated REALTOR<sup>®</sup>.

The exemption for any licensee included on the certification forms shall automatically be revoked upon the individual being engaged in real estate licensed activities (listing, selling, leasing, renting, managing, counseling,

appraising or arranging financing for real property), other than referrals, or being a participant or subscriber of any Multiple Listing Service, and dues for the current fiscal year shall be due and payable.

The exemption for any license included no the certification form for a LFRO shall automatically be revoked upon the individual being engaged in a real estate licensed activities other than those activities for which an MLO license or endorsement is required or upon their joining an MLS, and dues for the current fiscal year shall be due and payable.

Membership dues shall be prorated for any licensee included on a certification form submitted to the association who during the same calendar year applies for REALTOR® or REALTOR-ASSOCIATE® membership in the association.

However, membership dues shall not be prorated if the licensee held REALTOR® or REALTOR-ASSOCIATE® membership during the preceding calendar year.

- C. The annual dues of REALTOR® members shall not include any allocation for C.A.R., if the member is a member of an Association of C.A.R. and that Association has paid C.A.R. dues for the member.
- D. The annual dues of REALTOR® members shall not include any allocation for NAR, if the member is a member of an Association of NAR and that association has paid NAR dues for the member.
- E. In the case of a Designated REALTOR® member in a firm, partnership, or corporation whose business activity is substantially all commercial, any assessments for non-member licensees shall be limited to licensees affiliated with the Designated REALTOR® (as defined in sub-paragraph (b) of this Section) in the office where the Designated REALTOR® holds membership, and any other offices of the firm located within the jurisdiction of this Association.
- F. The annual dues of each Institute Affiliate Member shall be as established in Article II of the Bylaws of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®.

**Section 3. Dues Payable.** Dues for all members shall be payable annually in advance on the first day of January. Dues shall be computed from the first day of the month in which a new member is notified of acceptance and shall be prorated for the remainder of the year. Any member who initiates bankruptcy proceedings may be placed on a "cash basis" from the date the bankruptcy petition is filed until one year from the date that the member has been discharged from bankruptcy. All dues or fees paid to the A.O.R. are nonrefundable, except for those dues returned to a terminated provisional member as provided in Article V, Section 10.

**Section 4. Nonpayment of Financial Obligations.**

- A. If dues, fees, fines, or other assessments including amounts owed to the A.O.R. or its Multiple Listing Service are not paid within one (1) month after the due date, the nonpaying member is subject to suspension. Three (3) months after the due date, membership of the nonpaying member shall automatically terminate unless

within that time the amount due is paid. However, no action shall be taken to suspend or expel a member for nonpayment of disputed amounts until the accuracy of the amount owed has been confirmed by the Board of Directors. Furthermore, no member shall be suspended or expelled until twenty (20) days after notice of a proposed suspension or expulsion and the reason therefore has been mailed by regular first-class mail to him or her, which notice may be given before or after the expiration of the one-month limit, two-month limit, or three-month limit.

- B. If within ten (10) days after the mailing of a notice the member requests a hearing, the effective date of the suspension or expulsion shall be deferred until after such hearing. The Board of Directors shall mail by regular first-class mail to the member at least five (5) days prior to the hearing a notice of the time and place of the hearing. At the hearing the Board of Directors shall receive evidence from the member and may receive evidence from any other person on the issue of whether the member was delinquent in the payment of fees or charges and on the issue of whether it would be in the best interest of the A.O.R. to suspend or expel the member.
- C. If the Board of Directors determines that the member was delinquent, the Board of Directors may decide, as it deems in the best interest of the A.O.R., to suspend or expel the member, to decline to suspend or expel the member, or to decline to suspend or expel the member on condition that the member pay the delinquency on or before a specified date or pay the delinquency in specified installments on or before specified dates. The member shall be automatically suspended or expelled without further hearing if the member fails to perform such condition.
- D. Any suspension or expulsion occurring after a hearing shall be effective five (5) days after notice thereof is mailed to the member, subject to the right of the Board of Directors to specify that the suspension or expulsion shall become effective upon the entry, in a suit by the A.O.R. for declaratory relief, of the final judgment of a Court of competent jurisdiction declaring that the suspension or expulsion violates no rights of the member.
- E. A member who has been expelled may apply for reinstatement in the manner prescribed for new applicants for membership, upon making full payment of all past due accounts, together with interest at the rate of ten (10%) percent per annum on each item comprising the accounts, from its due date until paid, and after complying with all sanctions imposed by a disciplinary panel together with the payment of the application fee required of new applicants.
- F. In the event the membership of a real estate licensee or certified or licensed appraiser who holds REALTOR® membership is terminated for nonpayment of A.O.R. dues, and the licensee or appraiser remains affiliated with the same firm, the dues obligation of the designated REALTOR®, as set forth in this Article IX, Section 2(b), will be increased to reflect the addition of a non-member licensee or appraiser. Dues shall be calculated from the first day of the current fiscal year and are payable within thirty (30) days of the notice of termination.

**Section 5. Reinstatement After Termination for Nonpayment of Financial Obligations.**

A former member who has had his or her membership terminated for nonpayment of dues, fees, fines, or other assessments duly levied in accordance with the provisions of these Bylaws or the provisions of other Rules and Regulations of the A.O.R. or any of its services, departments, divisions or subsidiaries may apply for reinstatement in a manner prescribed for new applicants for membership, only after making payment in full of all accounts due as of the date of termination.

**Section 6. Deposit.** All monies received by the A.O.R. for any purpose shall be deposited to the credit of the A.O.R. in a financial institution or institutions selected by resolution of the Board of Directors.

**Section 7. Notice of Delinquent Dues, Fees, Fines, Assessments and Other Financial Obligations of Members.** All delinquent dues, fees, fines, assessments or other financial obligations to the A.O.R. or its Multiple Listing Service shall be noticed to the delinquent member in writing setting forth the amount owed and due date.

**ARTICLE X  
OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

**Section 1. Officers.** The elected officers of the A.O.R. shall be: President, President-Elect, and First Vice President. The elected officers of the A.O.R. will be; (1) The officers must be a REALTOR®, (2) The officer shall fill a position of a State Director for C.A.R. and (3) The officer shall attend all local, state and national meetings as directed by the Board of Directors. In the absence of both the President and the President-Elect, the First Vice President shall perform the duties of the President. The President-Elect position is a one-year term of service and shall automatically ascend to President. All elected officers shall serve for one year or until their successors are elected and qualified. No person shall hold more than one office at the same time. The Chief Executive Officer is the chief staff person of A.O.R. but is not an officer or member of the Board of Directors. (rev 7/17, 2/18)

**Section 2. Appointed Officers.** The Chief Executive Officer shall serve as Secretary of the Corporation with no voting privileges. With the approval of the Board of Directors, the President shall appoint a Treasurer. The Treasurer shall be a voting member of the Board of Directors and shall also serve as the Chair of the Finance Committee. The Treasurer shall be appointed by the President and ratified by the Board of Directors with a majority vote. (rev 2/18)

**Section 3. Powers and Duties of Officers.** The powers and duties of the officers shall be such as their titles, by general usage, would indicate and such as may be assigned to them by the Board of Directors. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep the records of the Board of Directors and to carry on all necessary correspondence with NAR and C.A.R.

**Section 4. Board of Directors.** The governing body of the A.O.R. shall be a Board of Directors consisting of the elected officers, the immediate Past-President of the Board, and nine (9) elected (or appointed) REALTOR® Members of the A.O.R. All directors

including the elected (or appointed) officers have one vote. Directors shall be elected to serve for terms of three (3) years. The Board of Directors may add up to one (1) additional Director in their sole discretion. The one (1) additional Director may be non-REALTORS®. A non-REALTOR® Directors' term may be up to three (3) years at the option of the Board. (rev 7/17, 10/18, 2/19)

**Affiliate Director:** An Affiliate member who is a member of the Board of Directors is a voting member with the exception of Professional Standards or Grievance matters. The Affiliate member must be a member of, and in standing with, the Association and will be elected to serve a two-year term. (rev 10/18)

**Section 5. Powers and Duties of the Board of Directors.** Subject to the provisions of the California Nonprofit Corporation Law and any limitations in the Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws relating to action required to be approved by the members or a majority of all the members, the activities and affairs of the A.O.R. shall be conducted by and all management powers shall be exercised by or under the direction of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may delegate the management of the activities of the A.O.R. to any committee so long as the ultimate direction is provided by the Board of Directors.

**Section 6. Election of Officers and Directors.**

- A. All rules and information regarding the election shall be made available to membership and published by April 1st. (rev 2/18)
- B. All candidates shall be members in good standing of the Ventura County Coastal Association of REALTORS®.
- C. Each year, there will be one (1) President-Elect and one (1) First Vice President elected to serve as Officers. (rev 2/18)
- D. There shall be only one ballot allowed per member. No proxy votes shall be cast by or for anyone.
- E. Election of Officers and Directors may be conducted by electronic means, in accordance with procedures established by the Board of Directors. (rev 7/17)
- F. A member cannot hold two (2) elected Association positions simultaneously. A member of the Grievance or Professional Standards Committee may not serve on the Board of Directors simultaneously. (rev 2/19)

**Section 7. Vacancies.** Vacancies among the officers and the Board of Directors shall be filled by a simple majority vote of the Board of Directors to fulfill the full term of the vacant seat. If an officer or director is unable to assume office after being elected, his or her seat becomes vacant and shall be filled by the Board of Directors. (rev 7/17)

**Section 8. Removal of Officers and Directors.** In the event that an officer or director is deemed to be incapable for any reason of fulfilling the duties for which he or she is elected, but will not resign from office voluntarily, the officer or director may be removed from office under the following procedure:

- A. A petition requiring the removal of an officer or director and signed by not less than one-third of the voting membership or a majority of all directors shall be filed with the President, or if the President is the subject of the petition, with the next ranking officer, and shall specifically set forth the reasons the individual is deemed to be disqualified from further service.
- B. Upon receipt of the petition, and not less than twenty (25) days or more than forty-five (45) days thereafter, a special meeting of the voting membership of the A.O.R. shall be held. The sole business of the meeting shall be to consider the charge against the officer or director, and to render a decision on such petition.
- C. The special meeting shall be noticed, including the general nature of the meeting, to all voting members at least four (4) days prior to the meeting, and shall be conducted by the President unless the President's continued service in office is being considered at the meeting. In such case, the next ranking officer will conduct the meeting. Provided a quorum is present, a three-fourths vote of members present and voting shall be required for removal from office.

**Section 9. Expenditures.** The Board of Directors shall administer the day to day finances of the A.O.R. Unbudgeted capital expenditures in excess of five (5%) percent may not be made unless authorized by a majority of the A.O.R. members eligible to vote and present at a duly held membership meeting. However, unbudgeted expenditures required for the protection of capital assets or to respond to emergency situations may be incurred by the Board of Directors without the prior approval of the full membership of the A.O.R. Capital expenditures are those expenditures for long term improvements chargeable to the capital asset account. (rev 03/17)

**Section 10. Chief Executive Officer.** There shall be a Chief Executive Officer, appointed by the Board of Directors, who shall be the chief administrative officer of the association. The Chief Executive Officer shall have the authority to hire, supervise, evaluate and terminate other staff, if any, and shall perform such other duties as prescribed by the Board of Directors. The Chief Executive Officer shall not hold an active California real estate license. (rev 2/18)

## **ARTICLE XI MEETINGS**

**Section 1. Annual Meetings.** The annual meeting of the A.O.R. shall be held each year, the date, hour, manner and place to be designated by the Board of Directors.

**Section 2. Meetings of Directors.** The Board of Directors shall designate a regular time and place of meetings. Automatic resignation shall occur under any of the following circumstances: (1) absence from two consecutive regular meetings without an excuse deemed valid by the Board of Directors; (2) absence from three regular meetings in one



year without a valid excuse and (3) absence from four regular meetings in one year for any reason.

**Section 3. Other Meetings.** Meetings of the members may be held at other times as the President or the Board of Directors may determine, or upon the written request of at least five (5%) percent of the members eligible to vote.

**Section 4. Notice of Meetings.** Written notice of membership meetings shall be delivered personally, by first class mail, facsimile, electronic mail or other electronic means to the address shown on the current A.O.R. records of every member entitled to participate in the meeting at least ten (10), but not more than ninety (90), calendar days preceding all meetings. The A.O.R. may also publish notice of membership meetings in any publication regularly sent to all members of the A.O.R. If a special meeting is called, it shall be accompanied by a statement of the purpose of the meeting.

**Section 5. Quorum.** A quorum for the transaction of business by the general membership shall consist of eight (8) percent of the members eligible to vote and present at a duly held membership meeting. A quorum for the transaction of business by the Board of Directors shall consist of fifty-one (51%) percent of the Directors. (rev 02/18, 10/18)

**Section 6. Action without a Meeting.** Any action that may be taken at any regular membership meeting or special membership meeting may be taken without a meeting if the association distributes a written or electronic ballot to every member entitled to vote on the matter. Approval by written or electronic ballots shall be valid only when the number of votes cast by ballot within the time-period specified equals or exceeds the Quorum required to be present at a meeting authorizing the action, and the number of approvals equals or exceeds the number of votes that would be required to approve such action at a meeting had the vote been taken in a face-to-face meeting.

## **ARTICLE XII COMMITTEES**

**Section 1. Standing Committees.** The President shall appoint from among the REALTOR® members, subject to confirmation by the Board of Directors, the following standing committees and their chairs:

- Finance Committee
- Grievance Committee
- Multiple Listing Service (MLS) Committee
- Professional Standards Committee (rev 7/17)

A. Members of the Grievance and Professional Standards committees are to be ratified by the sitting Board of Directors.

**Section 2. Special Committees.** The President shall appoint from among the REALTOR® members, subject to confirmation by the Board of Directors, special committees as deemed necessary.

**Section 3. Term of Committee Appointments.** Committee members shall be appointed to one-year, unlimited terms except the members of the Grievance, Professional Standards and Finance committees who will serve staggered three-year terms. (rev 7/17)

**Section 4. Organization.** All committees shall be of such size and shall have duties, functions and powers as assigned by the Board of Directors except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws.

**Section 5. President.** The President shall be an ex-officio non-voting member of all standing committees and shall be notified of their meetings.

**Section 6. Removal.** The President shall have the power, subject to confirmation by the Board of Directors, to remove any member from a committee.

### **ARTICLE XIII FISCAL AND ELECTIVE YEAR**

**Section 1. Fiscal Year.** The fiscal year of the A.O.R. shall be the calendar year beginning January 1 and ending December 31.

**Section 2. Elective Year.** The elective year shall begin the day following the official closing of the NAR annual convention and end the last day of the NAR convention the following year.

### **ARTICLE XIV RULES OF ORDER**

**Section 1. Robert's Rules of Order.** Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall be recognized as the authority governing the meetings of the A.O.R., its Board of Directors, and committees, in all instances wherein its provisions do not conflict with the California Nonprofit Corporations Code or these Bylaws.

### **ARTICLE XV AMENDMENTS**

**Section 1. Notwithstanding Article XI, Section 5, these Bylaws may be amended by:**

- A. A 51% vote of the Officers and Directors qualified to vote at any meeting when at least 75% of the Board of Directors are present. The Board of Directors must be given a ten (10) day notice that there will be a change in the Bylaws, or
- B. A vote of the members at a duly called membership meeting in accordance with Article XI, Section 5.
- C. As required by NAR mandates and shall be ratified at the next Board of Directors meeting.

(rev 2/18)

**Section 2 Notice.** Notice to every member eligible to vote at all meetings, when amendments are to be considered, shall be given at least ten (10) days prior to the time

of the meeting. The notice shall be defined as the posting of the proposed amendments on the VCCAR website and via email or postal mail. The substance of such proposed amendments shall be plainly stated in the call of the meeting. (see Notice of Meetings, Article XI, Section 4. Page 24.) (rev 2/18)

**Section 3. Governing Policies.** The Board of Directors may periodically adopt such policies they deem necessary in the best interests of the Association. Such policies shall not be in conflict with the Association Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws. Policies may be adopted during any Directors' meeting without advance notice, and they be amended during any Directors' meeting without advance notice. (rev 7/17, 2/18)

## **ARTICLE XVI DISSOLUTION**

**Section 1. Dissolution.** Upon the dissolution of this A.O.R., the Board of Directors, after providing for the payment of all obligations, shall distribute any remaining assets to C.A.R. or, within its discretion, to any other non-profit tax exempt organization.

## **ARTICLE XVII MULTIPLE LISTING SERVICE**

**Section 1. Authority and Governing MLS Rules.** The A.O.R. may maintain for the use of licensed real estate brokers and salespersons, and licensed or certified appraisers, a Multiple Listing Service ("MLS") which shall be subject to the Bylaws of the A.O.R. and the California Model MLS Rules as from time to time amended by C.A.R., which are hereby incorporated by reference and such additional local MLS Rules and Regulations as may be hereinafter adopted by the Board of Directors. In the event of a conflict between the California Model MLS Rules and the local MLS Rules and Regulations, the local MLS Rules and Regulations will control.

**Section 2. Purpose.** A Multiple Listing Service is a means by which authorized MLS broker participants establish legal relationships with other participants by making a blanket unilateral contractual offer of compensation and cooperation to other broker participants; by which information is accumulated and disseminated to enable authorized participants to prepare appraisals and other valuations of real property; by which participants engaging in real estate appraisal contribute to common databases; and is a facility for the orderly correlation and dissemination of listing information among the participants so that they may better serve their clients and the public.

**Section 3. MLS Committee.** All members of the committee shall be MLS participants or subscribers. The President shall select the MLS Committee chair and the President-Elect shall select the vice chair from among the MLS Committee members. The actions of the MLS Committee are subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. (rev 7/17)

**Section 4. Access to Comparable and Statistical Information.** Providing the MLS generates such publications, A.O.R. members who are actively engaged in real estate

brokerage, management, mortgage financing, appraising, land development or building, but who do not participate in the MLS, are nonetheless entitled to receive, by purchase or lease, information other than current listing information that is generated wholly or in part by the MLS including "comparable" information, "sold" information and statistical reports. This information is provided for the exclusive use of A.O.R. members and individuals affiliated with A.O.R. members who are also engaged in the real estate business. Except as otherwise specified in the MLS Rules and Regulations, this information may not be transmitted, retransmitted or provided in any manner to any unauthorized individual, office or firm. A.O.R. members who receive such information are subject to the applicable provisions of the MLS Rules and Regulations whether they participate in the MLS or not.

**Section 5. Participation.** Any REALTOR® Member of this or any other Board, who is a principal, partner or corporate officer, or branch manager acting on behalf of the principal, without further qualification, shall be eligible to participate in Multiple Listing upon agreeing in writing to conform to the Rules and Regulations thereof and to pay the costs incidental thereto. However, under no circumstances is any individual or firm, regardless of membership status, entitled to Multiple Listing Service "Membership" or "Participation" unless they hold a current, valid real estate broker's license and offer or accept compensation to and from other Participants or are licensed or certified by an appropriate state regulatory agency to engage in the appraisal of real property. Use of information developed by or published by a Board Multiple Listing Service is strictly limited to the activities authorized under a Participant's licensure(s) or certification and unauthorized user are prohibited. Further, none of the foregoing is intended to convey "Participation" or "Membership" or any right of access to information developed or published by a Board Multiple Listing Service where access to such information is prohibited by law.

Mere possession of a broker's license is not sufficient to qualify for MLS participation. Rather, the requirement that an individual or firm offers or accepts cooperation and compensation means that the participant actively endeavors during the operation of its real estate business to list real property of the type listed on the MLS and/or to accept offers of cooperation and compensation made by listing brokers or agents in the MLS. "Actively" means on a continual and ongoing basis during the operation of the participant's real estate business. The "actively" requirement is not intended to preclude MLS participation by a participant or potential participant that operates a real estate business on a part-time, seasonal, or similarly time-limited basis or that has its business interrupted by periods of relative inactivity occasioned by market conditions. Similarly, the requirement is not intended to deny MLS participation to a participant or potential participant who has not achieved a minimum number of transactions despite good faith efforts. Nor is it intended to permit an MLS to deny participation based on the level of service provided by the participant or potential participant as long as the level of service satisfies state law. (Adopted 11/08)

The key is that the participant or potential participant actively endeavors to make or accept offers of cooperation and compensation with respect to properties of the type that are listed on the MLS in which participation is sought. This requirement does not permit an MLS to deny participation to a participant or potential participant that operates a "Virtual Office Website" (VOW) (including a VOW that the participant uses to refer customers to other participants) if the participant or potential participant actively endeavors to make or accept offers of cooperation and compensation. An MLS may evaluate whether a participant or potential participant actively endeavors during the operation of its real estate business to offer or accept cooperation and compensation only if the MLS has a reasonable basis to believe that the participant or potential participant is in fact not doing so. The membership requirement shall be applied in a nondiscriminatory manner to all participants and potential participants. (Adopted 11/08)

### **Section 6. MLS Participation non-REALTORS®.**

- A. A nonmember applicant for MLS participation who is a principal, partner, corporate officer, or branch office manager acting on behalf of a principal, shall supply evidence satisfactory to the Membership Manager that he/she has no record of recent or pending bankruptcy; has no record of official sanctions involving unprofessional conduct; agrees to complete a course of instruction (if any) covering the MLS Rules and Regulations and computer training related to MLS information entry and retrieval, and shall pass such reasonable and non-discriminatory written examination thereon as may be required by the MLS; and shall agree that if elected as a participant, he/she will abide by such rules and regulations and pay the MLS fees and dues, including the nonmember differential (if any), as from time to time established. Under no circumstances is any individual or firm entitled to MLS participation or membership unless they hold a current, valid real estate broker's license and offer or accept compensation to and from other participants, or are licensed or certified by an appropriate state regulatory agency to engage in the appraisal of real property. Use of information developed by or published by an association multiple listing service is strictly limited to the activities authorized under a participant's licensure(s) or certification and unauthorized users are prohibited. Further, none of the foregoing is intended to convey participation or membership or any right of access to information developed by or published by an association multiple listing service where access to such information is prohibited by law. (Amended 11/08)

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participant or potential participant that operates a real estate business on a part-time, seasonal, or similarly time-limited basis or that has its business interrupted by periods of relative inactivity occasioned by market conditions. Similarly, the requirement is not intended to deny MLS participation to a participant or potential participant who has not achieved a minimum number of transactions despite good faith efforts. Nor is it intended to permit an MLS to deny participation based on the level of service provided by the participant or potential participant as long as, the level of service satisfies state law. (Adopted 11/08)

The key is that the participant or potential participant actively endeavors to make or accept offers of cooperation and compensation with respect to properties of the type that are listed on the MLS in which participation is sought. This requirement does not permit an MLS to deny participation to a participant or potential participant that operates a "Virtual Office Website" (VOW) (including a VOW that the participant uses to refer customers to other participants) if the participant or potential participant actively endeavors to make or accept offers of cooperation and compensation. An MLS may evaluate whether a participant or potential participant actively endeavors during the operation of its real estate business to offer or accept cooperation and compensation only if the MLS has a reasonable basis to believe that the participant or potential participant is in fact not doing so. The membership requirement shall be applied in a nondiscriminatory manner to all participants and potential participants. (Adopted 11/08)

## **ARTICLE XVIII INDEMNIFICATION**

**Section 1. Right of Indemnity.** To the fullest extent permitted by law, the A.O.R shall indemnify its directors, officers, employees and other persons described in Section 7237(a) of the California Corporations Code, including persons formerly occupying any such position, against all expenses, judgments, fines, settlements and other amounts actually and reasonably incurred by them in connection with any "proceeding" as that term is used in the Section, and including an action by or in the right of the A.O.R., by reason of the fact that the person is or was a person described in that Section "Expenses", as used in this bylaw, shall have the same meaning as in Section 7237(a) of the California Corporations Code.

**Section 2. Approval of Indemnity.** On written request to the board by the person seeking indemnification under Section 7237(b) or Section 7237(c) of the California Corporations Code, the board shall promptly determine under Section 7237(e) of the California Corporations Code whether the applicable standard of conduct set forth in Section 7237(b) or Section 7237(c) has been met and, if so, the board shall authorize indemnification. If the board cannot authorize indemnification because the number of directors who are parties to the proceeding with respect to which indemnification is sought prevents the formation of a quorum of directors who are not parties to that

proceeding, the board shall promptly call a meeting of members. At that meeting, the members shall determine under Section 7237(e) whether the applicable standard of conduct set forth in Section 7237(b) or Section 7237(c) has been met and, if so, the members present at the meeting in person or by proxy shall authorize indemnification.

**Section 3. Advancement of Expenses.** To the fullest extent permitted by law and except as otherwise determined by the board in a specific instance, expenses incurred by a person seeking indemnification under Sections 1 and 2 of Article XVIII above of these bylaws in defending any proceeding covered by those Sections shall be advanced by the A.O.R. before final disposition of the proceeding, on receipt by the A.O.R. of an undertaking by or on behalf of that person that the advance will be repaid unless it is ultimately determined that the person is entitled to be indemnified by the A.O.R. for those expenses.