

**BYLAWS
of the
GREATER NEW BEDFORD ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, INC.**

Adopted October, 1987
Revised 6/01,9/03, 7/05, 6/06, 11/08
November 2009

ARTICLE I - Name

Section 1. Name. The name of this organization shall be the Greater New Bedford Association of REALTORS®, Incorporated, hereinafter referred to as the “Board”.

Section 2. REALTORS®. Inclusion and retention of the Registered Collective Membership Mark REALTORS® in the name of the Board shall be governed by the Constitution and Bylaws of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® as from time to time amended.

ARTICLE II - Objectives

The objectives of the Board are:

Section 1. 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.

Section 2. To promote and maintain high standards of conduct in the real estate profession as expressed in the Code of Ethics of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®.

Section 3. 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.

Section 4. To further the interests of home and other real property ownership.

Section 5. To unite those engaged in the real estate profession in this community with the Massachusetts Association of REALTORS® and the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, thereby furthering their own objectives throughout the state and nation, and obtaining the benefits and privileges of membership therein.

Section 6. To designate, for the benefit of the public, those individuals authorized to use the terms REALTOR® and REALTORS® as licensed, prescribed, and controlled by the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®.

ARTICLE III - Jurisdiction

Section 1. The territorial jurisdiction of the Board as a Member of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® shall include: City of NEW BEDFORD, Towns of ACUSHNET, DARTMOUTH, FAIRHAVEN, LAKEVILLE, MARION, MATTAPOISETT, and ROCHESTER as allocated by the Board of Directors of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®.

Section 2. 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 these Bylaws and those of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, in return for which the Board agrees to protect and safeguard the property rights of the National Association in the terms.

ARTICLE IV - Membership

Section 1. There shall be six classes of Members as follows:

(a) **REALTOR® Members.** REALTOR® members, whether primary or secondary, shall be:

(1) **Individuals** who, as sole proprietors, partners, or corporate officers, or branch office managers, are engaged actively in the real estate profession, including buying, selling, exchanging, renting or leasing, managing, appraising for others for compensation, counseling, building, developing or subdividing real estate, and who maintain or are associated with an established real estate office in the state of Massachusetts or a state contiguous thereto. All persons who are partners in a partnership, or all officers in a corporation who are actively engaged in the real estate profession within the

state or a state contiguous thereto shall qualify for REALTOR® Membership only, and each is required to hold REALTOR® membership (except as provided in the following paragraph) in a Board of REALTORS® within the state or a state contiguous thereto unless otherwise qualified for Institute Affiliate Membership as described in Section 1(b) of Article IV.

NOTE: REALTOR® Members may obtain membership in a “secondary” Board in another state.

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 board 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 Section 1 (b) of Article IV. (Amended 1/01)

(2) Individuals who are engaged in the real estate profession other than as sole proprietors, partners, or corporate officers, or branch office managers, and are associated with a REALTOR® Member and meet the qualifications set out in Article V.

(3) Corporate officers (who may be licensed or unlicensed) **of a real estate brokerage franchise** organization with at least one hundred fifty (150) franchisees located within the United States, its insular possessions and the commonwealth of Puerto Rico, elected to membership pursuant to the provisions in the NAR Constitution and Bylaws. Such individuals shall enjoy all of the rights, privileges and obligations of REALTOR® membership (including compliance with the Code of Ethics) **except:** Obligations related to board mandated education, meeting attendance, or indoctrination classes or other similar requirements; the right to use the term REALTOR® in connection with their franchise organization’s name; and the right to hold elective office in the local board, state association and National Association.

(4) Primary and secondary REALTOR® Members. An individual is a primary member if the Board pays state and national dues based on such Member. An individual is a secondary Member if state and National dues are remitted through another Board. One of the principals in a real estate firm must be a Designated REALTOR® member of the Board in order for licensees affiliated with the firm to select the Board as their “primary” Board.

(5) Designated REALTOR® Members. Each firm shall designate in writing one REALTOR® Member who shall be responsible for all duties and obligations of Membership including the obligation to arbitrate pursuant to Article 17 of the Code of Ethics and the payment of Board dues as established in Article X of the Bylaws. The “Designated REALTOR®” must be a sole proprietor, partner, corporate officer or branch office manager acting on behalf of the firm’s principal(s) and must meet all other qualifications for REALTOR® Membership established in Article V, Section 2, of the Bylaws.

(b) Institute Affiliate Members. Institute Affiliate Members shall be individuals who hold a professional designation awarded by a Institute, Society, or Council affiliated with the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® 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 members.

(c) Affiliate Members. Affiliate Members shall be real estate owners and other individuals or firms who, while not engaged in the real estate profession as defined in paragraph (a) or (b) of this Section, have interests requiring information concerning real estate, and are in sympathy with the objectives of the Board. Further, affiliate membership may be granted to licensed or certified appraisers who, if otherwise eligible, do not elect to hold REALTOR® membership in the Board.

(d) Public Service Members. Public Service Members shall be individuals who are interested in the real estate profession as employees of or affiliated with educational, public utility, governmental or other similar organizations, but are not engaged in the real estate profession on their own account or in association with an established real estate business.

(e) Honorary Members. Honorary Members shall be individuals not engaged in the real estate profession who have performed notable service for the real estate profession, for the Board, or for the public.

(f) Student members. Student members shall be individuals who are seeking an undergraduate or graduate degree with a specialization or major in real estate at institutions of higher learning, and who have completed at least two years of college and at least one college level course in real estate, but are not engaged in the real estate profession on their

own account or not associated with an established real estate office.

ARTICLE V - Qualification and Election

Section 1. Application

(a) An application for membership shall be made in such manner and form as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors and made available to anyone requesting it. The application form shall contain among the statement to be signed by the applicant:

(1) That applicant agrees as a condition to membership to thoroughly familiarize him/herself with the Code of Ethics of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Rules and Regulations of the Board, The State and National Associations, and if elected a Member, will abide by the Constitutions and Bylaws and Rules and Regulations of the Board, State and National Associations, and if a REALTOR®, will abide by the Code of Ethics of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® including the obligation to arbitrate controversies arising out of real estate transactions as specified by Article 17 of the Code of Ethics, and as further specified in the *Code of Ethics and Arbitration Manual* of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, as from time to time amended, and

(2) that applicant consents that the Board, through its Membership Committee or otherwise, may invite and receive information and comment about applicant from any Member or other persons, and that applicant agrees that any information and comment furnished to the Board by a person in response to the invitation shall be conclusively deemed to be privileged and not form the basis of any action for slander, libel, or defamation of character. The applicant shall, with the form of application, have access to a copy of the Bylaws, Constitutions, Rules and Regulations, and Code of Ethics referred to above.

Section 2. Qualification.

(a) An applicant for REALTOR® Membership who is a sole proprietor, partner or corporate officer, or branch office manager of a real estate firm shall supply evidence satisfactory to the board through its Membership Committee or otherwise that he is actively engaged in the real estate profession, and maintains a current, valid real estate broker's or salesperson's license or is licensed or certified by an appropriate state regulatory agency to engage in the appraisal of real property, has a place of business within the state or a state contiguous thereto (unless a secondary member), has no record of recent or pending bankruptcy, has no record of official sanctions involving unprofessional conduct, agrees to complete a course of instruction covering the Bylaws and Rules and Regulations of the Board, the Bylaws of the State Association, and the Constitution and Bylaws and Code of Ethics of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, and shall agree that if elected to membership, he will abide by such Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, and Code of Ethics.

NOTE 2: Article IV, Section 2, of the NAR Bylaws prohibits Member Boards from knowingly granting REALTOR® or REALTOR-ASSOCIATE® membership to any applicant who has an unfulfilled sanction pending which was imposed by another Board or Association of REALTOR® for violation of the Code of Ethics. (Adopted 01/01)

(*) NO RECORD OF OFFICIAL SANCTIONS INVOLVING UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT is intended to mean that the Board may only consider judgments within the past three (3) years of violations of (1) civil rights laws; (2) real estate license laws; (3) or other laws prohibiting unprofessional conduct against the applicant rendered by the courts or other lawful authorities; and (4) findings of violations of the REALTOR® Code of Ethics resulting in suspension or expulsion from any Member Board/Association in which applicant is or was a Member.

NO RECENT OR PENDING BANKRUPTCY is intended to mean that the applicant or any real estate firm in which the applicant is a sole proprietor, general partner, or corporate officer, or branch manager is not involved in any pending bankruptcy or insolvency proceedings, or has not been adjudged bankrupt in the past three (3) years. If a bankruptcy proceeding as described above exists, membership may not be rejected unless the Board establishes that its interests and those of its members and the public could not be adequately protected by requiring that the bankrupt applicant pay cash in advance for Board and MLS fees for up to one (1) year from the date that membership is approved or from the date that the applicant is discharged from bankruptcy (whichever is later). In the event that an existing member initiates bankruptcy proceedings, the member may be placed on a "cash basis" from the date that bankruptcy is initiated until one (1) year from the date that the member has been discharged from bankruptcy.

(b) Individuals who are actively engaged in the real estate profession other than as principals, partners, or corporate officers, or branch office managers in order to qualify for REALTOR® Membership, shall at the time of application, be associated either as an employee or as an independent contractor with a Designated REALTOR® Member of

the Board or a Designated REALTOR® Member of another Board (if a secondary member), shall complete a course of instruction covering the Bylaws and Rules and Regulations of the Board, the Bylaws of the State Association, and the Constitution and Bylaws and Code of Ethics of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® and shall pass such reasonable nondiscriminatory written examinations thereon as may be required by the Committee, and shall agree in writing that if elected to membership, he will abide by the Code of Ethics of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® and by the Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules and Regulations of the local Board, State Association, and the National Association.

(c) The Board/Association will also consider the following in determining an applicant's qualifications for REALTOR® membership:

1. All final findings of 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 MLS.

“Provisional” membership may be granted 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 for violations of the Code of Ethics; See Article V, Section 2(a) Note 2) provided all other qualifications for membership have been satisfied. Associations may reconsider the membership status of such individuals when all pending ethics and arbitration matters (and related discipline) have been resolved or if such matters are not resolved within six months from the date that provisional membership is approved. Provisional members shall be considered REALTOR® and shall be subject to all of the same privileges and obligations of REALTOR® membership. If a member resigns from another association with an ethics complaint or arbitration request pending, the association may condition membership on the applicant’s certification that he/she will submit to the pending ethics or arbitration proceeding (in accordance with the established procedures of the association to which the applicant has made application) and will abide by the decision of the hearing panel. (Amended 1.01)

Section 3. Election

The procedures for election to membership shall be as follows:

(a) The Membership Committee 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 qualifications as set forth in these Bylaws, the Committee shall invite any objecting Member to appear and substantiate his objections. Objections which are not substantiated shall be totally disregarded. The Committee may not find objections substantiated without (1) informing the applicant in advance, in writing, of the objections and identifying the objecting Member, and (2) giving the applicant a full opportunity to appear before the Committee and establish his qualifications. The Committee shall thereafter make a written report of its findings. The Membership Committee shall conduct all proceedings with strict attention to the principles of due process and compliance with the Board.

(b) Thereafter, within 30 days, the Membership Committee shall report its recommendations to the Board of Directors in writing. If the recommendation is adverse to the approval of the application, the reasons shall be specifically stated. If any member of the Membership Committee submits a dissenting recommendation, it shall also be reported to the Board of Directors.

(c) The Board of Directors shall review the qualifications of the applicant and the recommendations of the Committee and then vote on the applicants eligibility for membership. If the applicant receives a majority vote of the Board of Directors, he/she shall be declared elected to membership and shall be advised by written notice.

(d) The Board of Directors may not reject an application without providing the applicant with advance notice of the findings and recommendations of the Membership Committee, an opportunity to appear before the Board of Directors, to call witnesses on his behalf, to be represented by counsel, and to make such statements as he deems relevant. The Board of Directors may also have counsel present. The Board of Directors shall require that written minutes be made of any hearing before it, or may electronically or mechanically record the proceedings.

(e) If the Board of Directors determines that the application should be rejected, it shall record its reasons with the

Executive Vice President. 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 Board for a declaratory judgment by a court of competent jurisdiction of a final judgment declaring that the rejection violates no rights of the applicant.

Section 4. New Member Code of Ethics Orientation

Applicants for REALTOR® membership and provisional REALTOR® members (where applicable) shall complete an orientation program of the Code of Ethics of not less than two hours and thirty minutes of instructional time. 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 180 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.

Note: Orientation programs must meet the learning objectives and minimum criteria established from time to time by the **National Association of REALTORS®**. (adopted)

Section 5 Continuing Member Code of Ethics Training:

Effective January 1, 2001 through December 31, 2004, and for successive four year periods thereafter, each REALTOR® member of the association shall be required to complete quadrennial ethics training of not less than two hours and thirty minutes of instructional time. This requirement will be satisfied upon presentation of documentation that the member has completed a course of instruction conducted by this or another association, the State Association of REALTOR®, the National Association of REALTORS®, or any other recognized educational institution or provider which meets the learning objectives and minimum criteria established by the National Association of REALTORS® from time to time.

REALTOR® members who have completed the New member Code of Ethics Orientation during any four year cycle shall not be required to complete additional ethics training until a new four year cycle commences.

Failure to satisfy this requirement shall be considered a violation of a membership duty for which REALTOR® membership shall be suspended until such training is completed.

Members suspended for failing to meet the requirement for the first four(4) year cycle(2001-2004) will have until December 31, 2005 to meet the requirement. Failure to meet the requirement by that time will result in automatic termination of membership.

Failure to meet the requirement for the second (2005-2008) cycle and subsequent four(4) year cycle will result in suspension of membership for the first two months (January and February) of the year following the end of any four (4) year cycle or until the requirement is met, whichever occurs sooner. On March 1 of that year, the membership of member who is still suspended as of that date will be automatically terminated. Adopted 1/01. revised 5/05)

Section 6. Status Changes

(a) A REALTOR® who changes the conditions under which he holds membership shall be required to provide written notification to the Board within 30 days. A REALTOR® (non-principal) who becomes a principal in the firm with which he has been licensed or alternately, 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 REALTOR® (principal) Members but shall, during the period of transition from one status of membership to another, be subject to all of the privileges and obligations of a REALTOR® (principal). If the REALTOR® (non-principal) does not satisfy the requirements established in these Bylaws for the category of membership to which they have transferred within 30 days of the date they advised the Board of their change in status, their new membership application will terminate automatically unless otherwise so directed by the Board of Directors. NOTE: The Board of Directors, at its discretion, may waive any qualification which the applicant has already fulfilled in accordance with the Board's Bylaws.

A REALTOR® (or REALTOR-Associate®, where applicable) who is transferring their license from one firm comprised of REALTOR® principals to another firm comprised of REALTOR® principals shall be subject to all of the privileges and obligations of membership during the period of transition. If the transfer is not completed within 30 days of the date the board is advised of the disaffiliation with the current firm, membership will terminate automatically unless otherwise so directed by the Board of Directors.

(b) Any application fee related to a change in membership status shall be reduced by an amount equal to any application previously paid by the applicant.

(c) Dues shall be prorated from the first day of the month in which the member is notified of election by the Board of Directors and shall be based on the new membership status for the remainder of the year.

ARTICLE VI - Privileges and Obligations

Section 1. The privileges and obligations of Members, in addition to those otherwise provided in these Bylaws, shall be specified in this Article.

Section 2. Any Member of the Board may be reprimanded, fined, placed on probation, suspended, or expelled by the Board of Directors for a violation of these Bylaws and Board Rules and Regulations not inconsistent with these Bylaws, after a hearing as provided in the *Code of Ethics and Arbitration Manual* of the Board. Although Members other than REALTORS® are not subject to the Code of Ethics nor its enforcement by the Board, such Members are encouraged to abide by the principles established in the Code of Ethics of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® and conduct their business and professional practices accordingly. Further, Members other than REALTORS® may, upon recommendation of the Membership Committee, or upon recommendation by 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, applied on a nondiscriminatory basis, reflects adversely on the terms REALTOR® or REALTORS® and the real estate industry, or for conduct that is inconsistent with or adverse to the objectives and purposes of the local Board, the State Association, and the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®.

Section 3. Any REALTOR® of the Board 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 *Code of Ethics and Arbitration Manual* of the Board, provided that the discipline imposed is consistent with the discipline authorized by the Professional Standards Committee of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® as set forth in the *Code of Ethics and Arbitration Manual* of the National Association.

Section 4. Resignations of Members shall become effective when received in writing by the Board of Directors, provided, however, that if any Member submitting resignation is indebted to the Board for dues, fees, fines, or other assessments of the Board or any of its services, departments, divisions, or subsidiaries, the Board may condition the right of the resigning Member to reapply for membership upon payment in full of all such monies owed.

Section 5. If a Member resigns from the Board or otherwise causes membership to terminate with an ethics complaint pending, that Board of Directors may condition the right of the resigning Member to reapply for membership upon the applicant's certification that he/she will submit to the pending ethics proceeding and will abide by the decision of the hearing panel.

(a) 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 REALTOR®.

Section 6. REALTOR® Members

(a) REALTOR® Members, whether primary or secondary, in good standing whose financial obligations to the Board are paid in full shall be entitled to vote and to hold elective office in the Board; may use the term REALTOR® and

REALTORS®, which use shall be subject to the provisions of Article VIII; and have the primary responsibility to safeguard and promote the standards, interests, and welfare of the Board and the real estate profession.

(b) If a REALTOR® Member is a sole proprietor in a firm, a partner in a partnership or an officer in a corporation, and is suspended or expelled, the firm, partnership, or corporation shall not use the terms REALTOR® or REALTORS® in connection with its business during the period of suspension, or until readmission to REALTOR® membership, or unless connection with the firm, partnership or corporation is severed, or management control is relinquished, whichever may apply. The membership of all other principals, partners, or corporate officers shall suspend or terminate during the period of suspension of the disciplined Member, or until readmission of the disciplined Member or unless connection of the disciplined Member with the firm, partnership, or corporation is severed, or unless the REALTOR® who is suspended or expelled removes himself from any form or degree of management control of the firm for the term of the suspension or until

readmission to membership, whichever may apply. Removal of an individual from any form or degree of management control must be certified to the Board by the Member who is being suspended or expelled and by the individual who is assuming management control, and the signatures of such certification must be notarized. In the event the suspended or expelled Member is so certified to have relinquished all form or degree of management control of the firm, the membership of other partners, corporate officers, or other individuals affiliated with the firm shall not be affected, and the firm, partnership or corporation may continue to use the terms REALTOR® and REALTORS® in connection with its business during the period of suspension or until the former Member is admitted to Membership in the Board. The foregoing is not intended to preclude a suspended or expelled member from functioning as an employee or independent contractor, providing no management control is exercised. Further, the membership of REALTORS® other than principals who are employed or affiliated as independent contractors with the disciplined Member shall suspend or terminate during the period of suspension of the disciplined Member or until readmission of the disciplined Member, or unless connection of the disciplined Member with the firm, partnership, or corporation is severed, or management control is relinquished, or unless the REALTOR® Member (non-principal) elects to sever his connection with the REALTOR® and affiliate with another REALTOR® Member in good standing in the Board, whichever may apply.

If a REALTOR® Member other than a sole proprietor in a firm, partner in a partnership, or an officer of a corporation is suspended or expelled, the use of the terms REALTOR® or REALTORS® by the firm, partnership or corporation shall not be affected.

(c) In any action taken against a REALTOR® Member for suspension or expulsion under Section 6(b) hereof, 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 Article VI, Section 6(b) shall apply.

Section 7. Institute Affiliate Members. Institute Affiliate Members shall have rights and privileges and be subject to obligations prescribed by the Board of Directors consistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®.

Section 8. Affiliate Members. Affiliate Members shall have rights and privileges and be subject to obligations prescribed by the Board of Directors.

Section 9. Public Service Members. Public Service Membership shall have rights and privileges and be subject to obligations prescribed by the Board of Directors.

Section 10. Honorary Members. Honorary Membership shall confer no rights except the right to attend meetings and participate in discussions, and shall impose no obligations.

Section 11. Student Members. Student Members shall have rights and privileges and be subject to obligations prescribed by the Board of Directors.

Section 12. Certification by REALTOR®. “Designated” REALTOR® Members of the Board shall certify to the Board during the month of NOVEMBER, on a form provided by the Board, a complete listing of all individuals licensed or certified with the REALTOR®’s office(s) and shall designate a primary Board for each individual who holds membership. Designated REALTORS® shall also identify any non-member licensees in the REALTOR®’s office(s) and if the Designated REALTOR® dues have been paid to another Board based on said non-member licensees, the Designated REALTOR® shall identify the Board to which dues have been remitted. These declarations shall be used for purpose of calculating dues under Article X, Section 2(a) of the Bylaws. “Designated” REALTOR® Members shall also notify the Board of any additional individual(s) licensed or certified with the firm(s) within 30 days of the date of affiliation or severance of the individual.

Section 13. Harassment. Any member of the Association 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 association. 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, and President-elect and one member of the Board of Directors selected by the highest ranking Officer not named in the complaint, upon consultation with legal counsel for the association. Disciplinary action may include any sanction

authorized in the association's 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.

Note: Suggested procedures for processing complaints of harassment are available online through <http://www.REALTOR.org>, or from the Member Policy Department. (Amended 5/08)

ARTICLE VII - Professional Standards and Arbitration

Section 1. The responsibility of the Board and of Board Members relating to the enforcement of the Code of Ethics, the disciplining of Members, and the arbitration of disputes, and the organization and procedures incident thereto, shall be governed by the *Code of Ethics and Arbitration Manual* of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, as amended from time to time, which is by this reference incorporated into these Bylaws, provided, however, that any provision deemed inconsistent with state law shall be deleted or amended to comply with state law.

Section 2. It shall be the duty and responsibility of every REALTOR® Member of this Board to abide by the Constitution and Bylaws and Rules and Regulations of the Board, the Constitution and Bylaws of the State Association, and the Constitution and Bylaws of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, and to abide by the Code of Ethics of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, including the duty to arbitrate controversies arising out of real estate transactions as specified by Article 17 of the Code of Ethics, and as further defined and in accordance with the procedures set forth in the *Code of Ethics and Arbitration Manual* of this Board as from time to time amended.

ARTICLE VIII - Use of the terms REALTOR® and REALTORS®

Section 1. Use of the terms REALTOR® and REALTORS® by Members shall, at all times, be subject to the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® and to the Rules and Regulations prescribed by its Board of Directors. The Board shall have the authority to control, jointly and in full cooperation, with the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, use of the terms within its jurisdiction. Any misuse of the terms by members is a violation of membership duty and may subject members to disciplinary action by the Board of Directors after a hearing as provided for in the association's Code of Ethics and Arbitration Manual.

Section 2. REALTOR® Members of the Board shall have the privilege of using the terms REALTOR® and REALTORS® in connection with their places of business within the state 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. 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 the state or a state contiguous thereto are REALTOR® Members of the Board or Institute Affiliate Members as described in Section 1 (b) of Article IV.

(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 hold REALTOR® membership. If a firm, partnership, or corporation operates additional places of business in which no principal, partner, corporate officer, or branch office manger holds REALTOR® membership, the term REALTOR® or REALTORS® may not be used in any reference to those additional places of business. (Amended 1/01)

Section 4. Institute Affiliate Members shall not use the terms REALTOR® or REALTORS®, nor the imprint of the emblem seal of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®.

ARTICLE IX - State and National Membership

Section 1. The Board shall be a Member of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® and the Massachusetts Association of REALTORS®. By reason of the Board's Membership, each REALTOR® Member of the Member Board shall be entitled to membership in the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® and the Massachusetts Association of REALTORS® without further payment of dues. The Board shall continue as a Member of the State and National Associations, unless by a majority vote of all of its REALTOR® Members, decision is made to withdraw, in which case the

State and National Associations shall be notified at least one month in advance of the date designated for the termination of such membership.

Section 2. The Board recognizes the exclusive property rights of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® in the terms REALTOR® and REALTORS®. The Board shall discontinue use of the terms in any form in its name, upon ceasing to be a Member of the National Association, or upon a determination by the Board of Directors of the National Association that it has violated the conditions imposed upon the terms.

Section 3. The Board adopts the Code of Ethics of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® and agrees to enforce the Code among its REALTOR® Members. The Board and all of its Members agree to abide by the Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, and policies of the National Association and the Massachusetts Association of REALTORS®.

ARTICLE X - Dues and Assessments

Section 1. Application Fee. The Board of Directors may adopt an application fee for REALTOR® Membership in reasonable amount, not exceeding three times the amount of the annual dues for REALTOR® Membership, which shall be required to accompany each application for REALTOR® Membership and which shall become the property of the Board upon final approval of the application.

Section 2. Dues. The annual dues of Members shall be as follows:

(a) **REALTOR® Members.** The annual dues of each Designated REALTOR® Member shall be in such amount an amount established annually by the Board of Directors, plus an amount to be established annually by the Board of Directors equal to the number of real estate salespersons and licensed or certified appraisers who (1) are employed by or affiliated as independent contractors, or who are otherwise directly or indirectly licensed with such REALTOR® Member, and (2) are not REALTOR® Members of any Board in the state or a state contiguous thereto or Institute Affiliate Members of the Board. In calculating the dues payable to the Board by a Designated REALTOR® Member, non-member licensees as defined in (1) and (2) of this paragraph shall not be included in the computation of dues if the Designated REALTOR® has paid dues on said non-member licensees in another Board in the state or a state contiguous thereto, provided the Designated REALTOR® notifies the Board in writing of the identity of the Board to which dues have been remitted. 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 (1) and (2) of this paragraph) in the office where the Designated REALTOR® holds membership, and any other offices of the firm located within the jurisdiction of this board. *(Amended 1/01)

(1) For the purpose of this Section, a REALTOR® Member of a Member Board shall be held to be any Member who has a place or places of business within the state or a state contiguous thereto and who, as a principal, partner, or corporate officer, or branch office manager of a real estate firm, partnership, or corporation, is actively engaged in the real estate profession as defined in Article III, Section 1 of the Constitution of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®. An individual shall be deemed to be licensed with a REALTOR® if the license of the individual is held by the REALTOR®, or by any broker who is licensed with the REALTOR®, or by any entity in which the REALTOR® has a direct or indirect ownership interest and which is engaged in other aspects of the real estate business except as provided for in Section 2(a) (1) hereof provided that such licensee is not otherwise included in the computation of dues payable by the principal, partner, or corporate officer or branch office manager of the entity.

A REALTOR® with a direct or indirect ownership interest in an entity engaged exclusively in soliciting and/or referring clients and customers to the REALTOR® for consideration on a substantially exclusive basis shall annually file with the association on a form approved by the association a list of the licenses affiliated with that entity and shall certify that all the licenses affiliated are solely engaged in referring clients and customers and are not engaged in listing, selling, leasing, managing, counseling or appraising real property. The individuals disclosed on such form shall not be deemed to be licensed with the REALTOR® filing the form for purposes of this Section and shall not be included in calculating the annual dues of the Designated REALTOR®.

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® membership in the association. However, membership dues shall not be prorated if the licensee held REALTOR® membership during the preceding calendar year

(b) The annual dues of REALTOR® Members other than the Designated REALTOR® shall be in such amount as

established annually by the Board of Directors.

(c) **Institute Affiliate Members.** The annual dues for each Institute Affiliate Member shall be established in Article II, of the National Association of REALTORS®.

(d) **Affiliate Members.** The annual dues of each Affiliate Member shall be in such amount as established annually by the Board of Directors.

(e) **Public Service Members.** The annual dues of each Public Service Member shall be in such amount as established annually by the Board of Directors.

(f) **Honorary Members.** Dues payable, if any, shall be at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

(g) **Student Members.** Dues payable, if any, shall be at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Dues Payable. Dues for all Members shall be payable annually in advance on the first day of NOVEMBER. Dues for new members shall be computed from the first day of the month in which a Member is notified of election and shall be prorated for the remainder of the year.

(a) In the event a sales licensee or licensed or certified appraiser who holds REALTOR® membership is dropped for nonpayment of Board dues, and the licensee remains with the Designated REALTOR'S® firm, the dues obligations of the "designated" REALTOR® (as set forth in Article X, Section 2(a) will be increased to reflect the addition of non-member licensee. Dues shall be calculated from the first day of the current fiscal year and are payable within 30 days of the notice of termination.

Section 4. Nonpayment of Financial Obligations. If dues, fees, fines or other assessments including amounts owed to the Board or the Board's Multiple Listing Service are not paid within one (1) month after the due date, the non-paying Member is subject to suspension at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Two (2) months after the due date, membership of the non-paying Member may be terminated at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Three (3) months after the due date, membership of the non-paying 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 non-payment of disputed amounts until the accuracy of the amount owed has been confirmed by the Board of Directors. A former member who has had his membership terminated for non-payment 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 Board or any of its services, departments, divisions or subsidiaries may apply for reinstatement in a manner prescribed for new applicants for membership, after making payment in full of all accounts due as of the date of termination.

Section 5. Deposit. All monies received by the Board for any purpose shall be deposited to the credit of the Board in a financial institution or institutions selected by resolution of the Board of Directors.

Section 6. Expenditures. The Board of Directors shall administer the day to day finances of the Board. Capital Expenditures in excess of \$25,000.00 may not be made unless authorized by a simple majority of the Association Members present at a duly called meeting and eligible to vote, provided the substance of such proposed expenditure or expenditures shall be plainly stated in the call for the meeting.

Section 7. Notice of Dues, Fees, Fines, Assessments, and Other Financial Obligations of Members. All dues, fees, fines, assessments, or other financial obligations to the Board or Board's Multiple Listing Service shall be noticed to the delinquent Board Member in writing setting forth the amount owed and due date.

Section 8. The dues of REALTOR® Members who are REALTOR® Emeriti (as recognized by the National Association), Past Presidents of the National Association or recipients of the Distinguished Service Award shall be as determined by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XI - Officers and Directors

Section 1. Officers. The elected officers of the Board shall be: President, a President-Elect, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. They shall be elected for terms of one year and may serve until replaced by a Member elected to their office.

Section 2. Duties of Officers. The duties of 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 particular duty of the Executive Vice President to keep the records of the Board and to carry on all necessary correspondence with the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® and the Massachusetts Association of REALTORS®.

Section 3. Board of Directors. The governing body of the Board shall be a Board of Directors consisting of the elected officers and nine REALTOR® Members of the Board:

(a) One (1) shall be the immediate Past President of the Board and one (1) the current President of the Southeastern Massachusetts Multiple Listing Service, Inc., if in existence.

(b) The remaining seven or eight Directors shall be elected to serve for terms of three years, except that at organization, one-third of the elected Directors shall be elected for terms one, two, and three years respectively, or for lesser terms as may be necessary to complete the first fiscal year. Thereafter, as many Directors shall be elected each year as are required to fill vacancies.

(c) The term of a Director shall be no more than two consecutive three year terms.

Section 4. Election of Officers and Directors.

(a) At least 120 days before the annual election, a Nominating Committee of seven (7) REALTOR® Members shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors. Of these seven (7) members, three (3) shall be the most recent available past Presidents. The Nominating Committee shall select one (1) candidate for each office and one (1) candidate for each position to be filled on the Board of Directors.

(b) At least 90 days prior to the day of the Annual Meeting as established by the Bylaws, the Board of Directors, through the Secretary, shall notify each member in writing of the report of the Nominating Committee along with the date set for members to declare their candidacy for those elective offices and directorships to be voted on.

(c) Any REALTOR® Member in good standing who wishes to declare himself or herself as a candidate for any office may do so by giving notice in writing by certified mail to the Secretary of the Board. This declaration shall be received by the Secretary no later than 75 days prior to the Annual Meeting; the member's declaration shall state the office for which the member is a candidate and the Secretary of the Board shall so advise the chairman of the Election Committee, when appointed. A member may declare a candidacy for no more than one office or directorship.

(d) (1) In the event no member declares himself/herself, as prescribed, for any office for which there is a vacancy, leaving only one name to appear on the ballot as selected by the Nominating Committee, then the following procedure will apply: Where only one name appears on the ballot for each position of officer or director to be filled on the Board of Directors, no formal balloting of the membership will be conducted; instead, the Elected Secretary shall cast one vote to elect the uncontested slate.

(2) In the event that a member declares himself/herself for any office for which there is a vacancy and causes his/her name to be placed on the ballot along with the name presented by the Nominating Committee, then the following voting procedure will apply:

a. At least 60 days prior to the Annual Meeting, an Election Committee of seven (7) REALTOR® Members shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors. The Election Committee shall, with the assistance of the Secretary, prepare a Ballot for the election of all Officers and Directors. The Ballot shall be prepared in such a manner that each elective office shall be listed with all declared candidates listed alphabetically under the office for which each candidate is running. One blank line will be available under each office and as many blank lines as open directorships under Director for Write-In candidates. The blank line shall immediately follow the last alphabetically listed name. There shall be a column of boxes to the right of each candidate's name and the write-in blanks for the purpose of marking votes for the candidates. Together with the ballot shall be sent a letter informing the membership as to the names of those members who have declared themselves as candidates and the specific office to which they seek election. The membership shall also be informed in the same letter that the listing of the declared candidates is not intended to preclude the membership of the Board from voting for any REALTOR® member listed on the current active roster of REALTOR® Members. A copy of the current roster of REALTOR® Members with complete residence mailing address of each REALTOR® member shall be available to any REALTOR® Member requesting a copy. The roster shall be current as of 60 days prior to the Annual Meeting.

b. The Election Ballots shall be sent to each REALTOR® Member, with instructions to mark a candidate's name. These ballots are to be in the hands of each eligible member at least 45 days prior to the Annual Meeting and the ballots are to be returned to the Chairman of the Election Committee within 10 days. No signature of the member voting shall be required; however, a verifiable accounting system shall be used to insure one vote per eligible member and the ballots shall be available for inspection at the Annual Meeting. At the end of the ten (10) day period, the Election Committee shall make a tally of the ballots received, and select the names with the highest number of votes for each office and declare the election officially closed. The Election Committee shall certify to the Board of Directors the names of those elected and the offices to which they have been elected.

c. Ballot Verification: Enclosed with the ballot shall be two (2) envelopes. Ballots to be placed in envelope marked Ballot. Ballot shall be returned in the self-addressed, stamped envelope provided, which will include the named return residence address of said REALTOR® for verification of said ballot.

(e) In the call for the Annual Meeting, the Board of Directors shall notify the membership as to the names of those who have been elected and the offices to which they have been elected.

Section 5. Vacancies. Vacancies among the Officers and the Board of Directors shall be filled by a single majority vote of the Board of Directors until the next annual election except for the directorship held by the immediate Past President.

Section 6. Removal of Officers and Directors. In the event that an Officer or Director is deemed to be incapable of fulfilling the duties for which he was 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 (20) days or more than forty-five (45) days thereafter, a special meeting of the voting membership of the Board shall be held, and 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 to all voting Members at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting, and shall be conducted by the President of the Board 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 of the hearing by the Members. Provided a quorum is present, a three-fourths vote of Members present and voting shall be required for removal from office.

Section 7. Executive Vice President. There shall be an Executive Vice President, appointed by the Board of Directors, who shall be the chief administrative officer of the Board. The Executive Vice President 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.

ARTICLE XII - Meetings

Section 1. Annual Meetings. The Annual Meeting of the Board shall be held during November or December of each year, the date, place and hour 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. Absence from any three regular meetings in a calendar year shall result in a review by the Executive Committee and possible removal from the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Other Meetings. Meetings of the Members may be held at such times as the President, or the Board of Directors may determine, or upon the written request of at least ten percent (10%) of the members eligible to vote.

Section 4. Notice of Meetings. Written notice shall be given to every member entitled to participate in the meeting at least one (1) week preceding all meetings. 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 shall consist of fifteen percent (15%) of members eligible to vote.

Section 6. Absentee Voting. At all meetings requiring a two-thirds vote of membership (Article of Incorporation), a member may vote by absentee ballot executed in writing by the member in fact. Such ballot shall be filed with the Secretary of the Corporation before the meeting is called to order.

Section 7. Voting Procedure. Each Member entitled to vote shall be entitled to one vote. Upon demand of any Member, the vote upon any question before the meeting shall be by ballot, with all decisions to be decided by majority vote except as otherwise provided by these Bylaws. Elections for Officers and Directors shall be decided in accordance with the terms of Article XI, Section 4.

Section 8. Electronic Transaction of Business. To the fullest extent permitted by law, the Board of Directors or membership may conduct business by electronic means.

Section 9. Action without Meeting. Unless specifically prohibited by the articles of incorporation, any action required or permitted to be taken at a meeting of the board of directors may be taken without a meeting if a consent in writing, setting forth the action so taken, shall be signed by all the directors. The consent shall be evidenced by one or more written approvals, each of which set forth the action taken and bear the signature of one or more directors. All the approvals evidencing the consent shall be delivered to the Executive Vice President to be filed in the corporate records. The action taken shall be effective when all the directors have approved the consent unless the consent specifies a different effective date.

ARTICLE XIII - 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:

Professional Standards	Professional Development
Finance	Community Service
Government Affairs	Programs
Grievance	

Section 2. Special Committees. The President shall appoint, subject to confirmation by the Board of Directors, such special committees as deemed necessary.

Section 3. Organization. All committees shall be such size and shall have duties, functions, and powers as may be assigned to them by the Board of Directors, except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws.

Section 4. President. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all standing committees and shall be notified of their meetings.

ARTICLE XIV - Fiscal and Elective Year

Section 1. The fiscal and elective year of the Board shall be a calendar year.

ARTICLE XV - Rules of Order

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

ARTICLE XVI - Amendments

Section 1. These Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the Members present and qualified to vote at any meeting at which a quorum is present, provided the substance of such proposed amendment or amendments shall be plainly stated in the call for the meeting; except that in the case of Bylaw changes voted by the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® and requiring mandatory adoption by the local Board, these amendments may be made by a majority vote of the Board of Directors, with notice given to members of required and approved changes within 15 days of their acceptance and approval by the Board.

Section 2. Notice of all meetings at which amendments shall be considered shall be mailed to every member eligible to vote at least one (1) week prior to the meeting.

Section 3. Amendments to these Bylaws affecting the admission or qualification of REALTOR® and Institute Affiliate Members, the use of the terms REALTOR® and REALTORS®, or any alteration in the territorial jurisdiction of the Board, shall become effective upon their approval as authorized by the Board of Directors of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®.

ARTICLE XVII - Dissolution

Section 1. Upon the dissolution or winding up of affairs of this Board, the Board of Directors, after providing for the payment of all obligations, shall distribute any remaining assets to the Massachusetts Association of REALTORS® or, within its discretion, to any other non-profit tax exempt organization.

ARTICLE XVIII - Multiple Listing

Multiple Listing Service Operated as a Separate Corporation Wholly-Owned by the Board

Section 1. Authority. The Board of REALTORS® may maintain for the use of its Members a Multiple Listing Service which shall be a lawful corporation of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, all the stock of which shall be owned by the Board of REALTORS®. The Board of REALTORS® who currently operates a Multiple Listing Service as a corporation owned by the Board of REALTORS® reserves the right to cease operations, merge with other boards, terminate services, or make other such decisions for the benefit of its members with a quorum of 15% of the Greater New Bedford Association of REALTORS® membership (Revised 6/2006)

Section 2. Purpose. A Multiple Listing Service is a means by which authorized Participants make blanket unilateral offers of compensation to other Participants (acting as subagents, buyer agents, or in other agency or non-agency capacities defined by law); by which cooperation among participants is enhanced; by which information is accumulated and disseminated to enable authorized Participants to prepare appraisals, analyses, and other valuations of real property for bona fide clients and customers; by which Participants engaging in real estate appraisal contribute to common data bases; and is a facility for the orderly correlation and dissemination of listing information so participants may better serve their clients and the public. Entitlement to compensation is determined by the cooperating broker's performance as a procuring cause of the sale (or lease).

Section 3. Governing Documents. The Board of Directors shall cause any Multiple Listing Service established by it pursuant to this Article to conform its Corporate Charter, Constitution, Bylaws, Rules, Regulations, and Policies, Practices, and Procedures at all times to the Constitution, Bylaws, Rules, Regulations, and Policies of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®.

Section 4. Participation. Any REALTOR® 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 license (s) or certification and unauthorized uses are prohibited. Further, none of the foregoing is intended to convey "Participation" or "Membership" or any right of access to such information developed or published by a Board Multiple Listing Service where access to such information is prohibited by laws. (*)

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)

(*) **NOTE:** When there is more than one principal in a real estate firm, the chief principal/operating officer of the firm is defined as the MLS “Participant”. Brokers or salespersons other than principals are not considered “Participants” in the Service, but have access to and use of the Service through the principal (s) with whom they are affiliated.

Section 5. Access to Comparable and Statistical Information. Board 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 Board Members and individuals affiliated with Board Members who are also engaged in the real estate business and may not be transmitted, retransmitted, or provided in any manner to any authorized individual, office or firm except as otherwise specified in the MLS Rules and Regulations. Board members who receive such information, either as a Board service or through the Board’s MLS, are subject to the applicable provisions of the MLS Rules and Regulations whether they participate in the MLS or not.