

**BYLAWS**  
**National Society**  
**Sons and Daughters of Antebellum Planters 1607-1861**

**ARTICLE I**

**Name**

The name of this organization is the National Society Sons and Daughters of Antebellum Planters 1607-1861.

**ARTICLE I**

**Objectives and Purposes**

The objectives and purposes of this society are:

- o To identify and honor the memory of ancestors who were “planters” as defined in Article III, Section 1, of these bylaws within lands today comprising the 48 states of the continental United States between 1607 and April 12, 1861;
- o To collect and preserve records, documents and relics pertaining to the history and genealogy of such “planters;”
- o To produce and distribute publications of all kinds relating to the history and genealogy of such “planters;”
- o To study and appreciate the rural and country life led by our ancestors in all of the original colonies and territories from which the 48 states of the continental United States are derived;
- o To inculcate true patriotism and a strict devotion to historical truth;
- o And, to engage in other related educational, historical, genealogical, patriotic, literary and social activities.

**ARTICLE III**

**Membership**

**Section 1.**

Men and women 18 years of age or older who are lineal descendants of a “planter” living on land today included in the 48 states of the continental United States between 1607– April 12, 1861 are eligible for membership in this society. Also eligible are collateral descendants of a “planter” brother or sister of the whole blood of a lineal ancestor, both residing on land in one of the 48 states of the continental United States between 1607 and April 12, 1861. A “planter” is a large farmer. A common sense application of the definition of



“Planter” proposed by the United States Census Bureau is one owning not less than 500 acres of land on which not less than 20 persons are engaged in varying capacities in the agricultural operation will be employed. Meeting the acreage and worker requirements, a “rancher” will be included in the definition of a “planter.” In proving this status one may use census records, tax schedules, wills, deeds, inventories, histories, genealogies or other credible evidence.

The 500 acres or more, does not have to be in one plot or in contiguous plots or even in the same county or same state. The property of one spouse may be aggregated with the property of the other spouse even if legal title is vested in a trustee, but aggregation is permitted only where the applicant descends from both spouses.

The fact that an ancestor has another profession or occupation, as lawyer, doctor, merchant or clergyman, does not prevent that ancestor from being a “planter” where the acreage and worker requirements are met. To be a “planter” one must look to the crop for profit. That agricultural decisions were actually made by agents, overseers, or trustees, does not prevent the ancestor from being a “planter.”

Membership is strictly by invitation issued by the President General.

## **SECTION 2.**

All pages of the “Antebellum Planters” application must be completed by all applicants. The lineage must be given from the applicant to the planter ancestor. Names, dates and places of birth, marriage and death must be given in each generation as far as known and sufficiently to prove the line. All items relied on to prove the lineage (wills, deeds, census records, church records, cemetery records, war records, pension records, etc.) must be cited and copies furnished with one exception. If the line on which the applicant relies to join “Antebellum Planters” has been approved by another hereditary society, such as but not limited to, the Sons of the American Revolution or the Daughters of the American Revolution, it may be sufficient to furnish a copy of the other society’s application, signed and approved by the society’s genealogist. Even then, however, the line must be typed and proof cited in the “Antebellum Planters” application. In all cases, the Genealogist General may require further proof of documentation.



### SECTION 3.

Membership is divided into three groups, based on payment or non-payment of dues.

**A: LIFE:** New members by application shall pay the initiation fee and life membership dues as established by the society.

**B: ANNUAL:** Annual members are those who, in addition to an initiation fee, pay dues each year and were approved by application prior to April 15, 2016. Annual members who have been dropped for non-payment of dues may be reinstated upon payment of Life Membership dues.

**C. HONORARY:** Upon recommendation of the Council, at the Annual Meeting, members may elect to honorary membership, by vote of two-thirds of the members present and voting, persons who have made notable contributions to the study of history and genealogy of the "Antebellum Planters" or who have been benefactors to the Society. Lineal descent shall not be considered a requirement for honorary membership. Honorary members shall be accorded all social privileges, but shall not be entitled to vote or hold office and shall not be required to pay any initiation fee or dues. The status of honorary membership does not become effective until it is accepted in writing by the proposed recipient of the honor.

### SECTION 4.

There is a further division of membership into three groups based on the date the member joined the Society.

**A. FOUNDER:** Founder Members are those individuals whose application papers are approved prior to the Annual Meeting in 1998. They are assigned membership numbers as their papers approved, preceded by the word "Founder."

**B. CHARTER:** Charter Members are those individuals whose application papers are approved after the Annual Meeting in 1998 and before the Annual Meeting in 1999. They are assigned membership numbers as their papers are approved, beginning with the next number after that of the last Founder Member and preceded by the word "Charter."



C. **REGULAR:** Regular Members are those individuals whose application papers are approved after the Annual Meeting in 1999. They are assigned membership numbers as their papers are approved, beginning with the next number after that of the last Charter Member.

## **SECTION 5.**

Membership in the Society shall be evidenced by a Certificate of Membership and a Membership Badge provided at the member's own expense.

## **SECTION 6.**

The initiation fee shall be \$30.00 in addition to the Life Membership fee of \$200.00. For those annual members approved prior to April 15, 2016 the annual dues shall be \$20.00. The fee for supplemental applications shall be \$25.00. The Genealogist General will receive \$15.00 per application or supplemental, whether approved or rejected.

## **SECTION 7.**

Any annual member failing to pay all fees and dues chargeable against such member for a period of two years shall be dropped from membership. The Treasurer General shall send dues notices annually and after the second year of nonpayment shall send an additional notice and sixty (60) days later if fees and dues are still unpaid, the member's name is dropped from the roll. Annual members who have been dropped for nonpayment of dues may be reinstated upon payment of Life Membership dues.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **Officers and Council**

## **SECTION 1.**

The officers of the Society shall consist of President General, Vice President General, Secretary General, Treasurer General, Chancellor General, Genealogist General, Chaplain General and Historian General.

## **SECTION 2.**

All officers and members of the Council shall be elected by a majority of members in good standing and voting at the Annual Meeting in odd-numbered years, to serve for a period of two years or until their successors shall have been elected and installed. In even-numbered years a majority of members in good standing and voting at the Annual Meeting shall elect a Nominating Committee composed of five members, two of whom must be members of the Council, to propose a slate of



officers and five members of the Council at the Annual Meeting in odd-numbered years. The Committee shall meet immediately following officers and five members of the Council at the Annual Meeting in odd-numbered years. The Committee shall meet immediately following their election to elect one of its members as the chairman and report the results to the Annual Meeting.

### **SECTION 3.**

**A.** The Council shall consist of all elected officers, and the five members of the advisory council and all Presidents General.

**B.** In recognition of faithful service to the Society, a President General, having served a full term of office, may be elected as Honorary President General for life by a majority voice vote of the members.

### **SECTION 4.**

The Council shall meet upon the call of the President General or upon written request of three of its members. Three members constitute a quorum.

### **SECTION 5.**

The Council exercises all powers of the Society between Annual Meetings, except the power of amending the bylaws. The Council shall fill any vacancy in any office not otherwise provided for in these bylaws.

### **SECTION 6.**

**A.** The President General shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Order, shall preside at all meetings of the membership and the Council, shall appoint all Committees, except the Nominating Committee, shall be an ex-officio member of all Committees except the Nominating Committee and, in general, shall perform all duties incident to the office of Chief Executive. The President General keeps on file a copy of all application papers and all supplemental papers.

**B.** The Vice President General shall perform the duties of the President General in case of death, resignation, absence, or inability of said officer to act and shall assist the President General in the performance of his/her duties.

**C.** The Secretary General shall conduct the correspondence of the



of the Society, shall keep the membership roll of the Society, shall furnish due notice of all meetings and shall keep on file a copy of all application papers and all supplemental papers and, in general, shall perform all duties incident to the Office of the Secretary General.

**D.** The Treasurer General shall collect, deposit and safely keep all funds and securities of the Society, and, on the authorization of the Council, shall invest the funds of the Society. The Treasurer General shall render an account of the financial position to each Annual Meeting and to the Council when requested. The Treasurer General shall satisfy all financial obligations of the Society on authorization of the President General or Annual Meeting. In addition to the Treasurer General, the President General has the authority to sign checks.

**E.** The Chancellor General who shall be a lawyer duly admitted to the bar, shall render legal opinions on matters affecting the Society when called upon by the President General, the Council or the Annual Meeting and may, at the discretion of the President General, act as Parliamentarian.

**F.** The Genealogist General shall pass on all application papers and supplemental papers as outlined in Article III, Section 2. The Genealogist keeps a complete file of all applications and supplementals and issues permits for insignia and certificates of membership. The officer shall keep the Seal of the Society.

**G.** The Chaplain General shall conduct all of the religious exercises of the Society.

**H.** The Historian General shall keep a detailed record of all historical and commemorative celebrations of the Society, as well as its necrology.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **Meetings**

**SECTION 1.** The Annual Meeting shall be held each year in April in the metropolitan area of the city of Washington, D.C. at the call of the President General or on written request of three members of the Council.



**SECTION 2.** Other membership meetings may be held on the call of the President General at any time or place.

**SECTION 3.** At all membership meetings, five persons constitute a quorum. There shall be no voting by proxy.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **Indemnification**

The Society shall use its best, good faith efforts to obtain and keep in force at all times one or more policies of insurance providing for the defense and indemnification of all Officers of the Society for conduct of said officers within the course and scope of their duties and activities as Officers of the Society. The intention of this provision is to provide the broadest protection reasonably available for said officers at a reasonable cost.

By action of the Council, the Society may purchase and maintain insurance in such amounts as the Council deems appropriate.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **Amendments**

These bylaws may be amended at any Annual Meeting on recommendation of the Council provided the notice of meeting shall have contained a summary of the proposed amendment and provided that such proposed amendment receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of members present and voting.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **Dissolution**

If for any reason this Society should be dissolved or otherwise go out of existence, all property and assets shall be turned over to some similar organization exempt under the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or the corresponding section of any future Internal Revenue Code.

**Revised:** 17 October 1997; 13 April 2002; 13 April 2005, 15 April 2016, 14 April 2017.



Corporations Section  
P.O.Box 13697  
Austin, Texas 78711-3697



Geoffrey S. Connor  
Secretary of State

## Office of the Secretary of State

### CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION OF

National Society Sons and Daughters of Antebellum Planters  
Filing Number: 800369416

The undersigned, as Secretary of State of Texas, hereby certifies that Articles of Incorporation for the above named corporation have been received in this office and have been found to conform to law.

Accordingly, the undersigned, as Secretary of State, and by virtue of the authority vested in the Secretary by law, hereby issues this Certificate of Incorporation.

Issuance of this Certificate of Incorporation does not authorize the use of a name in this state in violation of the rights of another under the federal Trademark Act of 1946, the Texas trademark law, the Assumed Business or Professional Name Act, or the common law.

Dated: 07/22/2004

Effective: 07/22/2004



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Connor".

Geoffrey S. Connor  
Secretary of State



