

UNITED IRISH SOCIETIES BYLAWS

ARTICLE I.

The name of this organization shall be the United Irish Societies of Michigan (UIS).

ARTICLE II.

The object of the UIS shall be to maintain the American ideals of liberty, uphold the principles on which America was founded and to help promote Irish heritage and culture for people, clubs, societies and other groups of Irish ancestry.

ARTICLE III.

The primary purposes of the UIS are to sponsor and organize an annual St. Patrick's Parade to be held on the Sunday preceding St. Patrick's Day, to coordinate and unite the unilateral efforts of our affiliated Irish organizations for the common good of all members and to promulgate the reunification of the thirty-two (32) counties of Ireland as a wholly independent country through the collective right of all the people of Ireland to national self-determination.

ARTICLE IV.

Membership in the UIS shall be comprised of any Irish club, society or organization desiring membership, which has indicated its desire to participate in the functions of the UIS and by a written application to the President stating desired membership and outlining the purpose and principles of said club, society or organization. This application must be accompanied by a \$200 application fee, which is refundable if membership is not granted, and a list of five (5) delegates and two (2) alternates. Membership shall be granted by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the delegates of the UIS in attendance at a regular meeting of the UIS. The representatives of an organization applying for membership must appear at a UIS meeting for presentation of its application preceding the voting. Member organizations are required to have at least one delegate attend at least five (5) UIS meetings during the fiscal year. If this attendance requirement is not fulfilled, the member organization may lose voting privileges.

ARTICLE V.

Each UIS member organization may have up to five (5) delegates who can vote at a UIS meeting. It shall be the responsibility of each affiliated organization to provide a current delegate listing to the Corresponding Secretary in advance of the first fiscal meeting as directed by the President of the UIS.

ARTICLE VI.

The annual membership dues, the amount to be determined by the UIS, must be payable within thirty (30) days of the first fiscal meeting and no later than the start of the October meeting. The date, time and location of this meeting is to be designated by the President of UIS. Any organization that has failed to comply with this provision will be deemed ineligible to hold office or to participate in the voting on any matter pertaining to the UIS.

ARTICLE VII.

The officers of the United Irish Societies shall be: a President, a Vice-President, a Recording Secretary, a Treasurer, and a Corresponding Secretary.

ARTICLE VIII.

To be eligible to hold UIS office, an individual must have been involved in an organization which has been a UIS member for at least two years. Nomination of UIS officers shall take place at the first meeting in September and the election will occur at the October meeting. Only one delegate from each affiliated organization shall be eligible to hold office in the UIS at any time. Election shall be by ballot and shall be conducted by an election committee appointed by the President.

ARTICLE IX.

The **President** shall preside at all meetings of the UIS and shall enforce the laws and rules as set forth in these by-laws. The President shall appoint such committees as deemed necessary to conduct business of the UIS. The President shall serve as ex-officio member of all committees and such committees shall convene at the direction of the President or the President's representative. The President shall abstain from voting unless there is a tie, in which case, the President shall vote to break the tie.

The **Vice President** of the UIS shall preside in the absence of the President and shall have the authority to perform the duties of President. In addition, the Vice-President shall be empowered with such duties and responsibilities as may be delegated by the President. The Vice President shall ensure an audit of UIS finances is conducted annually at the end of the UIS fiscal year (July 31). The Vice President will appoint an audit committee, if appropriate.

The **Recording Secretary** shall keep an authentic record of the proceedings of the UIS; maintain a record of those delegates in attendance; perform all duties incident to the office of Secretary, and, such other duties as may be assigned by the President. The Recording Secretary shall provide a list of paid members to the Treasurer and will also record the list of paid members in the UIS minutes.

The **Treasurer** shall receive and keep an accurate accounting of all monies due and payable to the UIS and shall pay all bills and expenses incurred by the UIS. The Treasurer is responsible for collecting UIS membership dues and shall report, both verbally and in writing, the following at each UIS meeting: expenses paid, revenue received and account balances since the last meeting. A detailed financial report shall be prepared quarterly.

The **Corresponding Secretary** shall conduct the correspondence of the UIS, maintain a current delegate list and provide notice of any meeting to the membership. The Corresponding Secretary will be responsible for maintaining the UIS website or appoint a committee to do so.

The above-named officers shall constitute the Executive Board of the UIS.

Upon a vacancy in an officer position, the Executive Board may fill the vacancy by majority vote. The person filling the vacancy shall serve until the next regularly scheduled election.

ARTICLE X.

A quorum of a meeting shall consist of at least one delegate from a majority of member organizations.

ARTICLE XI.

Regular meetings of the UIS shall be convened on a date set forth by the President. Special meetings may also be convened by the President or by written request of delegates of the majority of the affiliated organizations. Delegates shall be notified of all meetings by the Corresponding Secretary.

ARTICLE XII.

All anticipated expenses and monetary disbursements for any UIS function must either be submitted verbally through the chairperson of the function at a regular meeting or in writing prior to the regular meeting, and subsequently approved or denied, after having been duly considered, by the chairperson or a majority of the delegates in attendance at the regular meeting, time permitting, otherwise by a majority vote of the Executive Board. To facilitate the accounting of said event, all bills and financial encumbrances shall be presented for payment to the Treasurer no later than one hundred twenty (120) days after said event and, thereafter, the accounts will be considered closed and the chairperson will no longer entertain any further action. Furthermore, so as to provide guidelines for future events, it shall be required that each committee chairperson supply in writing a definitive report of all sources of supply, a description of materials employed and an accounting of specific costs expended.

ARTICLE XIII.

The Grand Marshal will be dedicated to the Irish Community and active in supporting Irish events, volunteerism and promotion of Irish heritage and culture. In addition to serving as Grand Marshal of the St. Patrick's Parade, he, she or they will participate in UIS and member events and activities throughout the year. The UIS will request nominations for the Grand Marshal position in September of each year. Nominations will be received at the meeting of the UIS in October. Prior to the October meeting, nominees will be contacted to verify interest and acceptance of the nomination. Nominations will close at the end of the October meeting. Biographies of those who accept the nomination will be prepared, printed, disseminated and read at the UIS meeting in November. Nominees should be present at the time of the election. The election will occur at the UIS meeting in November. If there are more than two (2) nominees, the top two (2) vote getters will engage in a run-off election. If there is a tie in voting, it will be broken by a vote of the President.

ARTICLE XIV.

The order of business at all UIS regular meetings shall be as follows:

1. Call to order by the President.
2. Roll call of officers.
3. Reports of officers.
4. Reports of committees.
5. Unfinished business.
6. New business.
7. Good of the order.
8. Adjournment.

All matters not herein provided for shall be decided according to Robert's Rules of Order.

ARTICLE XV.

Proposed amendments to UIS Bylaws shall be received by the Corresponding Secretary at least sixty (60) days prior to a date of the UIS meeting at which the amendments will be proposed. The Corresponding Secretary shall send a copy of all proposed amendments to the members not less than thirty (30) days prior to said meeting. Amendments to the Bylaws are adopted by a 2/3 vote of the member delegates present at said meeting.

Bylaws revised on August 20, 2015
Bylaws revised on October 19, 2017
Bylaws revised on November 21, 2019