BYLAWS

of the

ILLINOIS STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Adopted 20 October 2016

ARTICLE I – Name

The name of this society shall be the Illinois State Genealogical Society, a nonprofit, federal tax-exempt, state-chartered organization; hereafter known as the Society.

ARTICLE II – Purpose

Section 1. To stimulate an interest in the people who contributed to the establishment and development of the State of Illinois.

Section 2. To seek, preserve, and make available all information pertaining to individuals, families, and groups who lived in Illinois, recognizing the events that affected them.

Section 3. To inform people of the value of and the need for preserving family and local history for future generations.

Section 4. To encourage and support local and regional genealogical societies.

Section 5. To receive, hold and invest monies, dues, gifts, sales, interest, etc., and to hold and administer property for the benefit of the Society and for its educational purposes as provided in Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Section 6. Pursuant to 5 ILCS 160/7 (9) of the Illinois Compiled Statutes, the Society may cooperate and coordinate its activities with the Illinois State Archives.

ARTICLE III – Membership, Dues, and Fees

Section 1. Membership Eligibility Criteria

A. Any applicant interested in furthering the purposes of the Society and participating in its activities shall be eligible for membership upon submission of a properly completed application form and full payment of dues and fees.

B. A member shall be considered in good standing with full payment of applicable dues and fees.

C. Membership may be refused or be terminated by a two-thirds vote of the Governing Board to
anyone whose interests conflict with the purposes of the Society; anyone so rejected may
appeal the decision.

Section 2. Membership Categories

A. Each member, unless otherwise specified, shall be eligible to hold an appointed or elected
position in the Society and shall have one vote. Additional benefits shall be determined by
the Governing Board.

B. Categories of memberships in the Society shall be: Individual, Joint, Associate,
Subscription, Youth, Charter, and Life.

   i. Individual Membership shall be for any person who meets the membership
      eligibility criteria.

   ii. Joint Membership shall be for two persons residing at the same home address, who
       meet the membership eligibility criteria. These two members shall jointly share one
       copy of all postal mailings from the Society.

   iii. Associate Membership shall be for Illinois genealogical, historical, and related formal
        organizations. Associate Members shall have a representative who shall serve as a
        liaison between their society and the Illinois Society Liaison Committee. Associate
        Members shall be exempt from voting and holding an appointed or elected position in
        the Society.

   iv. Subscription Membership shall be for libraries, archives, or non-Illinois genealogical,
       historical, and related formal organizations, whose primary purpose of membership
       is to receive the Society’s Quarterly. Subscription Members shall be exempt from
       voting and holding an appointed or elected position in the Society.

   v. Youth Membership shall be for persons under the age of 25, who meet the membership
      eligibility criteria.

   vi. Charter Membership shall be for those persons who participated in the founding and
       organizing of the Society and who were members prior to June 1, 1969.

   vii. Life Membership applies only to those persons who received Life Memberships
       prior to September 2008. New Life Memberships are no longer available.

Section 3. Dues and Fees

A. Membership dues shall be for a term of one year.

B. All membership dues and related fees shall be set by the Governing Board.
C. Membership term shall be one year based on anniversary date.

ARTICLE IV – Officers and Directors

Section 1. There shall be five elected Officers of the Society: President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 2. There shall be nine elected Directors of the Society.

Section 3. These Officers and Directors shall be members in good standing with the Society.

Section 4. These Officers and Directors shall perform the duties prescribed by these Bylaws. For any duties not specifically described in these Bylaws, first refer to the Procedure Manual of the Society and secondly to the parliamentary authority adopted by the Society.

Section 5. An Officer or Director may be removed from their position by a two-thirds vote of the Governing Board.

Section 6. The Officers of the Society shall be elected for a term of two years.

Section 7. The Directors of the Society shall be elected for a term of three years. Three directors shall be elected each year.

Section 8. The term of office for all elected positions shall begin on the first of November following the election.

Section 9. No member shall be elected to the position of President for more than two consecutive terms. After an interim of three years a former President may serve again as President.

Section 10. In case of resignation, incapacity, or removal of the President from office, the First Vice-President shall automatically become the President for the remainder of the term.

Section 11. With the approval of the Executive Committee, the President shall appoint a member to fill any vacant office on the Governing Board other than the office of President and the Immediate Past President.

ARTICLE V – The Governing Board

Section 1. The Governing Board shall consist of the Officers, Directors, the Immediate Past President, and the Chairs of the Standing Committees.

Section 2. No member of the Governing Board shall cast more than one vote on any motion presented regardless of the number of voting positions held.

Section 3. The Governing Board shall conduct the general business of the Society.

Section 4. The Governing Board shall meet at least quarterly.
Section 5. Ex officio non-voting members of the Governing Board shall include, but are not limited to:

A. The members of the Illinois State Archives Advisory Board or a representative.
B. The Illinois Secretary of State or a representative.
C. The Director of the Illinois State Archives or a representative.
D. The Director of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library or a representative.

Section 6. The President or any five members of the Governing Board may call a special meeting. Notification shall be made at least three days prior to all Governing Board members by the same method used for notification of quarterly meetings. The notification shall include the date, time, location, method and purpose of the meeting.

Section 7. A quorum shall consist of at least one-third of the voting Governing Board members currently in office.

ARTICLE VI – The Executive Committee

Section 1. The elected Officers, Directors, and the Immediate Past President shall constitute the Executive Committee.

Section 2. The functions of the Executive Committee shall be limited to:

A. Approval over all appointments requested by the President.
B. Serving as an advisory body for the President and assisting in administering the goals of the Society.
C. Making recommendations to the Governing Board.
D. Conducting emergency business between meetings of the Governing Board.
E. Hiring personnel as needed to assist with the administrative affairs of the Society.
F. Authorizing the pay rate for personnel.
G. Meeting annually with the Illinois State Archives Advisory Board.

Section 3. The Executive Committee shall meet at least quarterly.

Section 4. The President or any three members of the Executive Committee may call a special meeting. Notification shall be made at least three days prior to all Executive Committee members by the same method used for notification of quarterly meetings. The notification shall include the date, time, location, method and purpose of the meeting.
Section 5. A quorum shall consist of at least one-third of the voting Executive Committee members currently in office.

ARTICLE VII – General Membership Meetings

Section 1. The Governing Board may determine purpose, date, time, location, method and the number of the general membership meetings. Notification shall be made at least thirty days prior and shall include the necessary meeting information. Notice shall be posted on the Society’s website.

Section 2. The general membership Annual Meeting shall be held during the fourth quarter of the Society’s Fiscal Year (August 1 through October 31).

Section 3. Special meetings of the Society shall be held when requested by the President with the approval of the Governing Board, or five members of the Governing Board or by a petition signed by twenty-five Society members. Notification shall be made at least thirty days prior and shall include: purpose, date, time, location and method. Notice shall be posted on the Society’s website.

Section 4. A quorum shall consist of twenty-five Society members.

ARTICLE VIII – Standing and Special Committees


Section 2. Special Committees of the Society shall be appointed at the request of the Executive Committee.

Section 3. With the approval of the Executive Committee the President shall appoint committee members and chairs.

Section 4. The President shall be an ex officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.

ARTICLE IX – Elections, Nominations and Voting

Section 1. Nominations and Elections

A. The President shall direct the Nominating Committee to convene.

B. The Nominating Committee shall propose at least one candidate for each open elected position. Candidates must be members in good standing.

C. Methods by which a nominee may become a candidate:

1. Through selection by the Nominating Committee.
2. Through proposal by a Society member in good standing.

D. Elections shall be held annually during the fourth quarter of the Society’s Fiscal Year (August 1 through October 31).

Section 2. Voting and Eligibility

A. All members in good standing may vote in society elections.

B. Election results shall be published in the Society’s publications and on the Society’s website.

ARTICLE X – Fiscal Year

The fiscal year shall be November 1 through October 31.

ARTICLE XI – Dissolution of Society

In the event of dissolution, all assets remaining after satisfaction of liabilities will be distributed in accordance with Illinois statutory regulations.

ARTICLE XII – Parliamentary Authority

Section 1. The rules contained in the current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Society in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws and any special rules of order the Society may adopt.

Section 2. With the approval of the Executive Committee a Parliamentarian shall be appointed by the President.

ARTICLE XIII – Amendment to Bylaws

Section 1. These Bylaws can be amended by the membership of the Society by a two-thirds vote of those voting, provided that the proposed amendment has been distributed to the members at least thirty days prior to the vote.

Section 2. Members shall be notified of the results in the Society’s publications and on the Society’s website.

ARTICLE XIV – Conflict of Interest

Section 1. Whenever a director, officer, or chairperson has a financial or personal conflict of interest in any matter coming before the Governing Board, the affected person shall fully disclose the nature of their interest and withdraw from discussion, lobbying, and voting on the matter.

Section 2. Any transaction or vote involving a potential conflict of interest shall be approved only when a majority of impartial Governing Board members determine that it is in the best interest of the Society
to do so.

Section 3. The minutes of meetings at which such votes are taken shall record such disclosure, abstention, and rationale for approval.

ARTICLE XV – Nondiscrimination Policy

The Society does not discriminate on any basis.