

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

(As revised and adopted at the meeting of 3/21/89)

(Revised, March 1993, March 1996, March 1998, March 2013, March 2014)

ARTICLE I

NAME

The organization shall be known as the Baptist Leader Network (BLN). The original name; Southern Baptist Church Business Administration Association was changed to Baptist Leader Network (BLN) by an affirmative vote of two-thirds majority of the voting members at a regular meeting on March 18, 2014.

ARTICLE II

OBJECTIVE/PURPOSE

The objective of this organization shall be:

- a. to facilitate the extension of the spiritual kingdom of God through the meeting of members in programs of study, service, fellowship, exchange of information, problem-solving discussions, educational programs, seminars and workshops leading to a more effective and efficient utilization of church facilities and resources;
- b. to act with others in the improvement and appreciation of the ministry and discipline of Christian business administration;
- c. to advance the welfare of all who are engaged in the profession of Christian business administration;
- d. to support and foster cooperation with the National Association of Church Business Administration (NACBA) and other similar organizations.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Section I

Active Membership

Active membership shall be open to those persons who are employed in the field of business administration and who agree to share in this organization's programs as herein outlined. Membership shall be open to those persons who meet the following requirements:

- a. serve a church and/or religious institution in a Baptist denomination, or be a church member in a Baptist denomination and serve a church and/or other religious institution of another denomination.
- b. agree to share in this organization's programs and to be governed by its constitution.

Section 2

Contributing Membership

Contributing membership may be granted with the approval of the Executive Council to individuals not meeting the qualifications of active membership but who desire to join the organization and be in support of its objectives and programs. Contributing members shall be ineligible to hold office, vote or chair standing committees but they shall be listed in any roster of membership and shall share in all other services and responsibilities of membership.

Section 3

Emeritus Membership

Emeritus membership shall be granted to retired persons for life with no dues required.

Section 4

Membership Applications

All membership applications shall be reviewed and approved by the Treasurer. Any questions will be referred to the Executive Council.

Section 5

Dues

Dues are established per year to begin January 1 and run for the calendar year. Dues may be changed by a recommendation of the Executive Council and approved by a majority vote of the membership present at either of the semi-annual meetings of the organization. Notice of changes in dues will be given at least two weeks prior to the vote. Changes in dues will take effect no earlier than January of the year following the vote.

To maintain membership in the BLN, all active and contributing members shall pay annual dues.

ARTICLE IV OFFICERS

Section I

Officers

The offices of the organization shall be a president, president-elect, secretary and treasurer. These four officers elected shall make up the Executive Council for the association. The Certification Coordinator shall serve as an ex-officio Member of the Executive Council.

Section 2

Election of Officers

Prior to the regular March meeting of the organization, which is conducted in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Business Officers Conference at GuideStone Financial Resources each year, the president shall appoint a nominating committee composed of at least three active members to prepare a slate of candidates for office. The nominees' names shall be communicated to the membership-at-large at least two weeks prior to the March meeting at which they are to be elected. Additional nominations may be made from the floor by active members at the March meeting. Each nominee shall agree to serve if elected.

Section 3

Ineligibility

Any officer who has served two terms in office shall be ineligible for that office until one year has elapsed. Present officers may stand for re-election.

Section 4

Term of Office

Officers shall be elected for a period of one year starting at the conclusion of the July meeting.

Section 5

Ballot

The election shall be held at the March meeting. If there is more than one candidate for an office, election for that office shall be made by secret ballot and a majority of those active members present shall be necessary to elect.

Section 6

Installation of Officers

Installation of officers shall take place at the July meeting.

Section 7

Interim

The Executive Council will appoint an interim officer to fill any vacancy.

ARTICLE V

DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND CERTIFICATION COORDINATOR

It shall be the responsibility of the outgoing officers to summarize the duties of their office and to present to their successor all papers, records, and reports associated with that office. All officers are expected to attend both annual meetings, i.e. the March meeting in Dallas and the July meeting which coincides with the NACBA meeting held in different cities.

Section 1

President

The president shall have the usual powers of supervision and management which pertain to the office of president and will perform the following duties:

- a. preside at all general and Executive Council meetings;
- b. appoint a chairperson for each committee. Further, the president in consultation with the committee chairperson and with approval of the Executive Council shall name the members to serve on the standing committees;
- c. be an ex-officio member of all committees;
- d. vote in case of a tie of the Executive Council;
- e. conduct the routine meetings of this association between meetings of the Executive Council and the March and July annual meetings;
- f. notify all Executive Council members of scheduled meetings;
- g. send notices of regular meetings and events to the membership.

Section 2

President-Elect

The president-elect shall:

- a. preside in the absence of the president;
- b. carry out any other duties as specified by the Executive Council and attend all meetings possible as an understudy to succeeding into the president's chair.

Section 3

Secretary

The secretary shall be the custodian of the records, conduct all correspondence of this organization and shall have the additional following duties: record and maintain a file of all minutes at each regular annual meeting (March and July) and at each meeting of the Executive Council.

Section 4

Treasurer

The treasurer shall be the custodian of the financial records of this association and shall have the following additional duties:

- a. receive payment for all dues and any other funds and assets of this organization;
- b. make all authorized disbursements;
- c. maintain necessary bank accounts;
- d. sign all checks;
- e. maintain all financial records;
- f. present a financial summary report at each regular annual meeting and to the Executive Council meetings;
- g. present the books and financial records of this association for audit when directed by the Executive Council;
- h. give notice to active and contributing members who have not paid their annual dues prior to January;

Section 5

Certification Coordinator

The certification coordinator shall:

- a. work with the Certification Center Directors to evaluate, update, and keep in place a program of study and a certification process in keeping with the academic objectives of professionalism for a church business administrator;
- b. serve as an ex-officio member of the Executive Council of the organization;
- c. be appointed by the president and approved by the Executive Council;
- d. maintain a list of names, addresses, and phone numbers of all members annually.
- e. provide a list of current membership to the Executive Council, all committee chairpersons, and all membership upon request.

Section 6

Immediate Past

President

The Immediate Past President shall:

- a. Provide the President and the Executive Council with historical information of the organization
- b. Provide advice and encouragement to the President
- c. Provide support and assistance to the programs of the organization.

ARTICLE VI COMMITTEES

There shall be four standing committees and as many other committees as shall from time to time seem necessary to the president and which are approved by the Executive Council.

The first committee shall be the Executive Council. It is elected by the organization as provided in Article VI, Section 1.

The second committee shall be the Certification Committee. It shall be appointed as outlined in Article VI, Section 2.

The third committee shall be the Hall of Honor Nominating Committee. It shall be appointed as outlined in Article VI, Section 3.

The fourth committee shall be the Nominating Committee. It shall be appointed as outlined in Article VI, Section 4.

Section I

Executive Council

Council shall be responsible for the organization, operation, and direction of this association and it shall conduct all routine affairs of this organization subject to such limitations as may be imposed in the constitution or by the general members as recorded in the minutes of this organization.

The Executive Council shall have the following additional authority and responsibilities:

- a. meet at the call of the president to consider the business of this organization;
- b. authorize the president to enter into agreements and contracts necessary to carry out the routine and recurring business of the organization;
- c. participate with the president to develop a program to be presented at both the March and July annual meetings. This program would include dates, times, places and resource speakers for these two meetings;
- d. promote attendance at both the annual meetings;
- e. the Executive Council shall further be responsible for membership in this organization. They will work with the secretary and/or the treasurer in cultivating new members.

Section 2

Certification Committee

There shall be a Certification Committee appointed by the president and approved by the Executive Council; it shall consist of four or more members. The initial committee shall be appointed to serve for a period of three years. Thereafter, this becomes a rotation committee, with one-half of the committee members rotating off each year. Two members shall be appointed each year for a two-year term. Their responsibilities shall be to evaluate the certification program and to bring recommendations to the organization as necessary and

required. Also, they will have the responsibility for reviewing the files and the work completed of candidates for certification.

The president will appoint a Certification Coordinator to maintain the records of the candidates for certification, receive applications and process them for each candidate. This person shall also serve as a member of the Certification Committee.

The seminar directors of Baptist Seminaries shall serve as ex-officio members on the Certification Committee. (The California Baptist University is no longer a certification center by their request so we might need to remove their name!)

Section 3 Committee

Hall of Honor Nominating

There shall be a Hall of Honor Nominating Committee appointed by the president and approved by the Executive Council; it shall consist of four or more members. The initial committee shall be appointed to serve for a period of three years. Thereafter, this becomes a rotation committee, with one-half of the committee members rotating off each year. Two new members shall be appointed each year for a two-year term. Their responsibilities is to receive nominations from the membership of the BLN and, based on the guidelines approved by the membership, shall select no more than two honorees each year.

Section 4

Nominating Committee

The president shall appoint a nominating committee each year composed of at least three active members to prepare a slate of candidates for office. The nominees' names shall be communicated to the membership-at-large two weeks prior to the March meeting at which they are to be elected. Additional nominations may be made from the floor by active members at the March meeting. Each nominee shall agree to serve if elected.

ARTICLE VII MEETINGS

Section 1

The Executive Council Meetings

The Executive Council shall meet as is necessary at a time and place to be determined by the president including the March and July meetings. Meetings of the Executive Council shall be conducted prior to or in conjunction with these annual meetings in Dallas and in the city for the NACBA annual meeting. Each member of the Executive Council shall be given notice prior to the time of the meeting as to the agenda and the meeting time. Three members of the council will constitute a quorum and majority of those present shall be required to pass any motion or transact other business.

ARTICLE VIII AMENDMENTS AND BYLAWS

The constitution of the organization may be amended at any regularly scheduled meeting by a two-thirds majority vote of the voting members present, provided that written notice of the proposed amendment has been circulated in writing to the full membership at least two weeks prior to the regularly scheduled organization meeting at which the vote shall be taken.

ARTICLE IX DISSOLUTION

In the event the membership of this organization determines that the need of this organization no longer exists, it shall be dissolved. Dissolution in accordance with this provision shall require the same formalities with respect to notice of the meeting and number of votes required to pass the motion as are required to amend this constitution.

Upon dissolution of this organization, all residual assets will be liquidated and converted into appropriate means, where possible, and a cashier's check along with the appropriate records will be sent to the National Association of Church Business Administration. In the event some asset cannot be converted into cash. It shall otherwise be disposed at the direction of the Executive Council.

ARTICLE X ADOPTION

The constitution of the Baptist Leader Network, originally known as the Southern Baptist Church Business Administration Association (SBCBAA), became effective upon adoption by an affirmative vote of two-thirds majority of the voting members at a regular meeting in March 1989 in Dallas, Texas.

Charter Constitution Committee:

J.W. Fortner, CCBA, Chair

Bentley Foster, CCBA

Bill Fogarty, CCBA

Bob Maxey, CCBA

Judy Stamey, CCBA

Russ Comer (deceased)

Ex-Officio: Bill Caldwell, (deceased) CCBA