

RUSIN ASSOCIATION BYLAWS
Revised January 16, 2010

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this association shall be "THE RUSIN ASSOCIATION OF MINNESOTA" and its headquarters shall be in Minnesota. It shall be referred to as the "Association".

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

The purpose of the Association is to sustain, as worthy of preserving and perpetuating in their own right, the distinct nationality, history, language and heritage of the Rusin people and to collect, preserve and disseminate historical, genealogical, linguistic and cultural information about the Rusin people, a nationality that has been, and still often is called by various other names which include, but are not limited to the following:

Carpatho-Russians, Rusyns, Carpatho-Rusyns, Carpatho-Rusins,
Rusin-Ukrainians, Rusin-Ukrainians, Carpatho-Ukrainians,
Karpato Russi, Podkarpatski Rusini, Podkarpatski Russiani,
Ruthenians, Ruthenes, Sub-Carpathian Ruthenians,
Transcarpathian Ruthenians, Ugro-Rusins, Uhro-Rusins,
Hungarian Rusins, Zakarpatski Rusini and American Russians.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. Membership will be open to all persons who recognize and support the Rusin people as a distinct nationality with a history, culture, language, and heritage worth advancing, preserving and perpetuating in its own right. Such membership eligibility will be without regard to sex, race, creed, color, national origin, and sexual preference or public assistance status. Membership is provisional upon payment of annual dues .

SECTION 2. The Association's membership year shall be January 1 through December 31.

SECTION 3. The Classes of Membership, and the Annual Dues for each Class are as indicated below:

- A. **Individual Membership.** An individual Membership is open to any person who meets the qualifications set in ARTICLE III, SECTION 1 of these By-laws. Individual members may hold elected office, serve on committees as members and/or chair the committee. Individual members have full voting privileges.
- B. **Life Membership.** Any individual who, otherwise is qualified for Individual Membership, contributes a sum as prescribed by the Board of Directors will receive a Life Membership and is entitled to all the rights and privileges of Individual Membership without paying annual dues.
- C. **Honorary Member.** Any person or group who has in an exemplary manner served or advanced the cause of the Rusin people or the Association may be proposed for Honorary Membership by any Member of the Association and may be elected by the Board of Directors. Honorary

Members pay no dues, cannot vote or hold office.

SECTION 4. The annual dues of those members who join the Association in months other than January shall have their dues prorated accordingly by the Treasurer.

SECTION 5. Application for membership shall be in writing on an Official Application Form as approved by the Board of Directors. Upon acceptance into Membership the new Member will agree to comply with the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws of the Association.

SECTION 6. Membership may be terminated for cause by a two-thirds majority vote of the membership.

SECTION 7. Upon payment of dues and acceptance into membership each new Member will receive the following:

- a. A copy of the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.**
- b. A Current roster of Association Members.**
- c. A schedule of Association meetings and activities.**

ARTICLE IV - GOVERNMENT.

Subject to the regulations and restrictions that may be prescribed by the Association, the affairs of the Association shall be managed by a Board of Directors (shall be referred to as the "Board") consisting of the Officers – President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer (shall be referred to as the "Officers"), 2 Directors-at-large and the Immediate Past President of the Association.

ARTICLE V - DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

The Board shall conduct the Association's meetings and membership affairs.

ARTICLE VI - DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS.

SECTION 1. THE PRESIDENT

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association and the Board of Directors; he/she shall establish the agenda for each meeting.

SECTION 2. THE VICE PRESIDENT

The Vice President shall assume the duties of the President should the President be unable to execute them and he/she shall perform other duties as directed by the President.

SECTION 3. The SECRETARY

The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all Association and Board of Directors meetings, and any other duties as agreed upon by the Board. These duties may include maintaining a roster of members, conducting Association correspondence and notifying members of meeting dates.

The Treasurer shall collect dues, pay approved bills, keep account of all debts, assets, receipts and disbursements, and report on it at the Annual Meeting and upon request. The Treasurer shall present the Associations books for audit upon request by any member of the Association. The Treasurer shall assume any other duties as agreed upon by the Board.

ARTICLE VII – DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE.

SECTION 1. There shall be Two (2) Directors at-large who, along with the Officers and Immediate past President, shall form the Board of Directors to conduct the day to day business of the Association.

ARTICLE VIII – IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

SECTION 1. The Immediate past President shall serve on the Board of Directors as an advisor with full voting rights until the current President is replaced. They shall assume any other duties as agreed upon by the Board.

ARTICLE IX - ELECTIONS AND TERMS OF OFFICE.

SECTION 1. Elections shall be held annually for the Officers and Directors-at-Large with the election being held during the Annual Meeting or, if so decided by a majority vote of the Board of Directors, the election may be conducted by mail ballot with the votes counted, results posted and ballots available for inspection at the Annual Meeting.

SECTION 2. Association Officers and Directors-at-Large shall be elected annually to serve one (1) year terms and may be reelected to the same or any other office. They shall serve until their successors are duly elected and installed. Any vacancy shall be filled for the unexpired term by a majority vote of the members present at the next regular meeting.

ARTICLE X - MEETINGS.

SECTION 1. Regular Meetings of the Association will be held as agreed on by the members at a time and place determined by the President with adequate notice provided to all members.

SECTION 2. There shall be an Annual Meeting of the membership held each January (date to be set by the Board) which may be held in conjunction with a Regular Meeting.

SECTION 3. Special Meetings may be called by the President or by any two- (2) members of the

Board of Directors or on application of any six (6) Members of the Association, a meeting will be called with adequate notice provided to all members.

SECTION 4. A quorum for Regular, Annual and Special Meetings shall consist of ten percent (10%) of the membership.

SECTION 5. The Board of Directors shall meet as directed by the President or if called by any two (2) of its members with a simple majority constituting a quorum.

SECTION 6. All meetings of the Association shall be conducted by parliamentary rules as stipulated in the most recently revised edition of Roberts Rules of Order, except if in conflict with the Association's Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws.

Section 7. Voting by proxy shall be allowed in all meetings with the proxy votes being counted towards a quorum.

ARTICLE XI - COMMITTEES

The Board of Directors shall establish and dissolve committees as it sees fit and the President shall appoint Chairpersons and members to committees as needed.

ARTICLE XII - DISPOSITION OF COLLECTION AND ASSETS.

If the Board of Directors, by unanimous vote, determines that the Association has failed to survive, all collections and assets of the Association shall be placed under the care of the Immigration History Research Center of the University of Minnesota until such time the Association can be reorganized or a new Rusin Association can be formed, but, if after six (6) months from such determination, the Association cannot be reorganized or a new Rusin Association formed, the collections and assets of the Association shall be disposed of as provided for in the Articles of Incorporation.

ARTICLE XV - AMENDMENT

Any Member in good standing may propose amendment of the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws of the Association by submitting the proposed amendment in writing to the President . The President shall notify each member of the proposed amendment at least two (2) weeks prior to the meeting at which the proposal will be considered. An amendment may be adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote in favor of the amendment, a quorum being present.