

ARTICLE I

NAME OF ORGANIZATION

1. The name of the organization is, “The Providence Association of Ukrainian Catholics in America”, herein referred to as “The Providence”.
2. The patroness of the organization is the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

PRINCIPAL OFFICE

3. The principal office of “The Providence” shall be located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and its sphere of activity shall be throughout the United States of America.

SEAL

4. The official seal of the organization is the image of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary placed on a round field, with the inscription: “The Providence Association of Ukrainian Catholics in America”, encircling the image at the center and in Ukrainian, - С.У.К. “Провидіння”.

EMBLEM

5. The emblem of “The Providence” resembles a shield in the form with the Ukrainian Trident at the center; the Divine Eye, triangular in form, is at the top with Greek letters, Alpha and Omega on either side; encircling the symbols is the inscription: “The Providence Association of Ukrainian Catholics in America - С.У.К. “Провидіння”.

SCOPE OF THE ORGANIZATION

6. The organization is socio-religious and benevolent-insurance oriented.

ARTICLE II

THE GOALS OF “THE PROVIDENCE”:

7. The goals of “The Providence”:
 - (a) RELIGIOUS:
“The Providence”, a Catholic organization has its goal to foster and strengthen the religious spirit among Ukrainians in the United States; to cooperate with the Church in cultivating the purity of the Ukrainian Rite; to safeguard the invaluable treasures of our religious and ethnic traditions; to foster them among Ukrainian-Americans and other ethnic groups by informing the local community about the history of our Church and the

Ukrainian nation through the media and press; and to fulfill the mission of the lay apostolate as an auxiliary organ of our Church.

(b) MORAL:

To cultivate among Ukrainian-Americans spiritual values based on the Christian principles of love, unity, and mutual self-respect; to instill these values among our younger generation; to raise our children in the spirit of fidelity to the Ukrainian Catholic Church, with love to the land of our descent, Ukraine, and with respect and loyalty to our country, the USA.

(c) MATERIAL:

To assist its members and their families in time of illness, disability, death and other material needs.

(d) SOCIAL:

To acquaint the Ukrainian-Americans with the history, constitution and government of the USA through various publications, to become good and loyal citizens, aware of their privileges and obligations: To help them achieve higher levels of education especially in the areas of Ukrainian history and culture, by giving financial assistance to such established foundations as Ukrainian schools, libraries, cultural and art foundations, and athletic organizations; to enable Ukrainian-Americans to become mature members of our society, who can work conscientiously for our Church and Ukrainian-American community.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

8. According to these Bylaws, the membership of "The Providence" embraces both male and female. (These Bylaws, using the term "Branch", conveys the concept of any society, brotherhood or sisterhood that is a part of "The Providence".) The terms: "member", "heir", "spouse", etc., must be understood as referring to both sexes.
9. Eligible for membership in "The Providence" is: any Ukrainian, either Ukrainian Catholic or of another Christian denomination, who is not hostile to the Ukrainian Catholic Church, is morally stable, mentally and physically sound, honest, practicing his/her Christian faith, of good character, and fully abiding by these Bylaws.

The provisions of this section shall not apply in the states where the government statutes limit or restrict admission of minors to membership. In such cases the admission of minors as members shall comply with the limitation and restrictions of the existing law.

10. A Ukrainian, or a person of Ukrainian descent, or of another ethnic affiliation related to a person of Ukrainian origin, in good health, not exceeding 70 years of age, is also eligible for membership in "The Providence".

11. Members of “The Providence” should send their children to Catholic schools, preferably to Ukrainian parochial schools.
12. The following persons shall be ineligible for membership in “The Providence”: persons who participate in activities detrimental to the Catholic Church, its ecclesiastical authority, the good of the Ukrainian-American community and especially that of “The Providence”, and persons of immoral turpitude.

ARTICLE IV

THE PROTECTOR OF THE ORGANIZATION

13. The Protector of “The Providence”: is the incumbent, duly appointed by the Holy See, Ukrainian Catholic Metropolitan Archbishop of Philadelphia, PA, USA, and in case of his death, incapacity, disability or absence from the United States of America, his lawful representative.

The Protector, a member of “The Providence”, is empowered to attend all the meetings of the General Assembly, to participate in discussions, to make motions and to vote.

These same rights are extended to the Hierarchy of the other Eparchies, members of “The Providence's” territory of operation or their delegated emissaries.

ARTICLE V

LEGISLATIVE BODY

14. The legislative powers of “The Providence”: shall be vested in the General Assembly, which is comprised of the Executive Committee, Directors, and Auditing Committee, in sessions convened in accordance with the Bylaws.

ARTICLE VI

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

15. The General Assembly of “The Providence” shall be comprised of the President, Vice-President, Spiritual Director, Secretary, Treasurer, Directors and the Auditing Committee, elected directly by the members in a manner more precisely hereinafter stipulated. Each member of the General Assembly is elected for a term of four (4) years and serves until his/her successor is elected and takes his/her duties over after the oath of office.

RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

16. The powers of the General Assembly are:
- (a) to amend, alter, and ratify the Bylaws of the organization. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the component bodies (see Section 15) of the convened General Assembly is required to validly amend or change the Bylaws;
 - (b) to determine the salary for members of the Executive Board and to approve the manager of the printing plant and the Editor-in-Chief;
 - (c) to provide monetary remuneration for expenses incurred for official business travel and participation in conferences, meetings and consultations;
 - (d) to transfer certain sums of money out of individual funds (accounts) to the Administrative Fund, providing this does not violate the law;
 - (e) to create new funds (accounts) in accordance with the requirements and resolution by the Bylaws;
 - (f) to raise or lower the membership dues for various funds;
 - (g) to ratify, reject, or alter the decision of the Executive Committee or the Arbitration Council if an appeal is lodged by these bodies;
 - (h) to fill vacant posts in the General Assembly until the time of the nearest elections;
 - (i) to confer the title of “Honorary Member of the Providence” upon its members for outstanding merits according to the guidelines of the handbook specifically prepared for this purpose;
 - (j) to impose an assessment on all members of “The Providence” in the event of a financial situation of the organization's insolvency in order to assure reserve funds as required by the state Insurance Department.
17. A member of the General Assembly shall not simultaneously hold office in any similar organization.
18. The General Assembly decides all cases not foreseen in the Bylaws.

MEETINGS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

19. The General Assembly shall convene as frequently as required, but not less than once a year. This shall be considered its regular meeting.

20. The President shall call all meetings, including special meetings of the General Assembly, when: (a) the affairs of the organization warrant such a meeting; and/or (b) when two-thirds (2/3) of the General Assembly members shall request the same.

Should the President fail to fulfill the demands of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the General Assembly to call such a meeting, the Vice-President shall have the power to call the special meeting.

21. The General Assembly shall hold its meetings at the Principal Office of “The Providence” or where the members of the General Assembly decide.
22. The President shall call the meeting of the General Assembly in writing, stating in the notification the exact date, time, and place of such meeting; and the reason for calling the meeting must be given in case of a special meeting. The meeting notification shall be signed by the President and the Secretary.
23. Each member of the General Assembly must receive the written notification at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the meeting and the meeting notification shall be published in the official organ of the Association.
24. Minutes of all proceedings of the General Assembly shall be recorded in both the Ukrainian and English languages at every meeting, stating the date: month, day and year when the meeting was held, the names of members present, the order of business transacted and resolutions passed.

The minutes of all meetings shall be prepared in the English Language, signed by the President and the Secretary; and they must be read in their entirety at the next meeting, unless the members attending the meeting dispense with the procedure.

QUORUM

25. The presence of the President or Vice-President, and at least two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the General Assembly shall constitute a quorum necessary to make legal and binding resolutions of the General Assembly.

MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THEIR RIGHTS AND DUTIES

THE PRESIDENT

26. The President is the head and representative of “The Providence” and has supervisory power over the organization and is responsible for the implementation of the goals and objectives in accordance with the organization's directives and instructions of Bylaws of “The Providence”.

27. He shall convene and preside over all meetings of the General Assembly and in the case of a tie, he shall cast the deciding vote.
28. He shall insure that each member of the General Assembly fulfills the duties and responsibilities of his office accurately and conscientiously. He shall have the right to accept resignations. With the assent and approval of the majority of the Executive Committee he shall fill vacancies up to the time of the nearest elections and shall appoint temporary substitutes in case of temporary incapacity of any officer.
29. With the approval of the majority of the Executive Committee and for a serious reason, he shall have the right to suspend any executive member from fulfilling his/her office until the matter can be presented to the General Assembly for further action.
30. He shall be empowered to suspend officers of the various Branches for violation of the Bylaws, and he shall have the right to suspend any Branch for failure to pay its dues.
31. He, together with the Treasurer, signs all checks.
32. He or his appointed representative, a member of "The Providence", shall call, when required, a special meeting of any Branch and demand from that Branch a presentation of all financial records and other documents for the purpose of an audit. He shall have the right to make copies of all business books of the Branch and to issue immediate directives which are prescribed by the Bylaws and which he may deem proper. At the same meeting, he shall have the power to suspend from function any officer (of the Branch) who may refuse to obey his directives.
33. The President represents "The Providence" and protects its rights in all legal matters and appoints legal counsel for the execution of such matters.
34. He issues and signs Charters for the Branches, and with the Secretary signs all legal documents of the organization.
35. He will strive to see that the direction and publication of the official organ (newspaper) of "The Providence" is not detrimental to the organization.
36. He shall have the right to issue directives unforeseen in the Bylaws, and report them at the next meeting of the General Assembly.
37. He shall prepare an annual report of his and the Association's activities for the convocation of the General Assembly.
38. He shall have power to call all regular and special meetings of the Auditing Committee.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT

39. In case of death, resignation or total incapacity of the President, or in case of vacancy of his office for any reason whatsoever, the Vice-President shall assume all rights and obligations of the President until a new President is elected and takes office.
 - a. As the representative of the General Assembly, he/she should foster close ties with the Regional Councils.
 - b. He/She shall coordinate activities of Regional Councils.
40. In case of temporary impediment or incapacity of the President, the Vice-President:
 - a. shall perform the President's duties only for the time such temporary impediment;
 - b. may be a member of any commission that may be appointed as required by the Executive Committee.

THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

41. The Spiritual Director shall be entrusted with the spiritual matters of the organization. His obligation is to assure that the resolutions of the General Assembly are consistent with the principles of the Catholic Church.
42. He shall see to it that members of “The Providence” do not disseminate propaganda harmful to the Catholic Church; and that articles, harmful to our Church, do not appear in “The Providence” organ. He may call offenders to accountability before the Executive Committee or the Arbitration Judiciary Council.
43. The Spiritual Director is an ex officio member of the organization's Arbitration Judiciary Council and may be appointed to serve on any commission by the Executive Committee.

THE SECRETARY

44. The Secretary will record all minutes of all meetings, proceedings of the Executive Committee and the General Assembly in English and Ukrainian Languages. In case of any inconsistencies between the two versions, the English version shall control.
45. He/She shall keep a record of all accepted members and record membership applications in alphabetical and numerical order, entering the date of admission, dismissal and death of every member in the proper register and he/she is responsible for maintaining a list of the number of members in individual branches of “The Providence”.
46. He/She shall enter in the official ledger the names of all accepted, transferred, resigned, dismissed and deceased members; receive membership applications and process the same. He/She shall receive all letters, petitions, proposals, etc., addressed to the organization, and present them at the meetings of the Executive Committee of the General Assembly.

47. He/She shall co-sign with the President, all official documents of the organization, issue membership certificates and charters for Branches. He/She shall provide the Branches with all that is necessary to conduct its business.
48. He/She shall be the keeper of the organization's official seal.
49. He/She shall prepare the required annual statements of his/her department.
50. He/She has the obligation to send to all Branches a copy of corrections and amendments to the Bylaws which were ratified and accepted by the General Assembly of "The Providence".
51. He shall take care of all correspondence pertaining to his/her office and expedite all matters that come within the competence of his/her office, and as the representative of the General Assembly, he/she should foster close ties with the individual Branches.

THE TREASURER

52. The Treasurer is responsible for all the financial records and accounts of the organization.
53. He/She receives all moneys for "The Providence" and dues from individual Branches, entering them into the appropriate ledgers and books.
54. Together with the President, he/she shall publish monthly reports of all receipts and disbursements of the organization for the month in the official organ of "The Providence".
55. He/She shall co-sign all checks with the President.
56. He/She shall keep a register of deceased members and a record of death benefits as well as other expenditures. The officers of Branches shall send him/her all notifications of deaths and requests for benefit payments which he/she must present to the Executive Committee for consideration.
57. He/She shall keep a detailed inventory of all organizational assets.
58. He/She is responsible for investigating investment opportunities for the organization and executing directives of the Executive Committee.
59. He/She shall prepare and submit necessary financial statements at meetings of the General Assembly.
60. He/She shall prepare the required annual statements of his/her department.

61. He/She deposits all payments received into the accounts of “The Providence” in banks designated by the Executive Committee.
62. He/She shall keep an exact account of the receipts and disbursements of each fund.
63. When called upon by the General Assembly, the Executive Committee or the President, he/she shall present the bank statements for the confirmation of deposits in the organization's fund.
64. He/She shall prepare a budget covering the next calendar year, and submit this budget at the Annual Meeting of the General Assembly for its approval.
65. He/She shall prepare annual statements of all bank deposits of organization funds and present them to the General Assembly.
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DIRECTORS

72. There shall be at least seven (7) elected Directors, according to the decision of the General Assembly. They shall take part in all ordinary and special meetings of the General Assembly at which they shall report about the activity of their respective districts. They help the Executive Committee in the administration of the organization with their counsel, propositions, and decisions. They protect interests of “The Providence” and direct activities in the territories of their respective Branches. Directors shall have the right to take part in discussion, make proposals, and vote at all the meetings of the General Assembly.

THE AUDITING COMMITTEE

73. The Auditing Committee shall be composed of three (3) members, who shall elect from among themselves a chairperson and a secretary.
74. The Auditing Committee shall monitor the activity of the organization and audit the accounts at least once a year, or more often as needed, either by its own unanimous

decision or upon requests of the President or two-thirds (2/3) majority of the General Assembly.

75. The Auditing Committee shall review all books and ledgers, which are kept by the officers of “The Providence”, and present a written report, signed by the chairperson and the secretary, at the meeting of the General Assembly. The report of the Auditing Committee shall be published in the official organ of “The Providence”.
76. The Auditing Committee will review and sign all closing financial statements if they are in order.
77. The Auditing Committee shall take part in all ordinary and special meetings of the General Assembly at which it shall report about its operation during the year; it shall take part in discussions, present proposals and vote.

At the final meeting of the fourth (4th) year, the Auditing Committee shall make a motion to the newly elected General Assembly to grant or deny “abslutorium” to the retiring General Assembly.

ELECTION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

78. Every qualified member of “The Providence” who is a practicing Catholic, of upright character, between the ages of 21 and 65, a member of “The Providence” for at least three (3) years, and a citizen of the USA, single or married in the Catholic Church, can be elected to any office of the General Assembly of “The Providence” with the exception of the President, unless he/she has waived this right in writing.
79. Only a validly ordained Ukrainian Catholic priest, possessing all qualifications, between the ages of 30 and 65, having approval of his bishop to become a candidate, can be nominated and elected to the office of the President of “The Providence”.

The President has the right to be elected to the office for a maximum of two (2) terms.

80. The general elections of candidates to the General Assembly take place every four (4) years:
 - (a) Any member possessing the necessary qualifications who has received at least ten (10) votes at a meeting of his/her Branch or has collected ten (10) signatures on his/her own from other members of “The Providence”, may become a candidate for a position in the General Assembly. The declaration of his/her candidacy must be sent to the Home Office no later than June 15th of an election year for certification by the Election Commission;
 - (b) The names of all candidates certified by the Election Commission as well as voting regulations shall appear must be published in the official organ of “The Providence” and its website no later than July 1st of the election year;

(c) At the annual meeting prior to election time, the General Assembly elects the Election Commission consisting of three (3) members and two (2) alternates, who among themselves will elect a president and a secretary of their Commission. The duties of the Election Commission will be: to certify the credentials of declared candidates, to accept all ballots cast in the general election, to verify their validity, to tabulate the number of votes received by individual candidates for each position, and to publicly announce the elections' results in the official organ of "The Providence".

(d) In case of resignation, withdrawal, or disqualification of a candidate with the highest number of votes, he/she shall be replaced by the candidate who received the next highest number of votes in the general election;

(e) Candidates for office in the general election may avail themselves of the privilege of using the official organ of "The Providence" to present themselves and their qualifications to the members prior to the election;

(f) The Secretary shall prepare a printed list of all candidates on the official ballot for the general election and mail same along with voting regulations to secretaries of the respective Branches, before October 1st of the election year. General elections are to be held on the Branch level on the designated date in October. Each Branch shall receive the number of ballots equal to the number of qualified voters in that Branch.

Each ballot sent for the general election must have the seal of "The Providence" and the number of the Branch affixed thereto.

Also an explanatory notice must be clearly printed on every ballot indicating the number of candidates to be voted for each respective position.

Individuals may elect, in writing, a direct mail ballot from and to the Election Commission in place of the traditional method of branch voting.

(g) Members can vote only for those candidates whose names appear on the official ballot;

(h) A member who is financially indebted to "The Providence" for more than three (3) months, does not have the right to vote in national or branch elections; one must also be a member for at least one (1) year before he/she has a right to vote;

(i) The voting in general election shall be conducted on the premises where the regular meeting of the Branches are held or in some other premises designated and announced by officers of the local Branch;

(j) The voting shall be secret and the qualified voting member shall mark the ballot by placing an "X" in the space provided on the ballot and depositing it in the balloting box;

(k) Each member of "The Providence" over 16 years of age is entitled to one vote and shall receive one ballot;

(l) There shall be no voting by proxy;

(m) Any ballot that is smeared, sullied, crossed-out or erased shall be invalidated;

(n) Upon completion of voting, the Branch President and Secretary shall collect all the ballots from their members, tally the ballots either themselves or with the help of the Branch Electoral Committee elected for that purpose, and record the count in the minutes. The Branch minutes shall state exactly how many votes were cast for each candidate. These minutes shall be signed at the same meeting by the Branch President and Secretary, and together with all used and unused ballots, sealed and sent to the President of the Election Commission in care of the Home Office. This letter must be postmarked no later than November 5th of the election year;

(o) A Branch which fails to send the voting records and ballots to the President of the Election Commission within the herein designated time shall be deemed to have voluntarily renounced its voting privileges.

Should fraud or abuse concerning the election be uncovered and proven against any Branch officer, he/she shall be removed from office immediately;

(o) The Election Commission shall tabulate the votes received for each candidate no later than November 15th of each election year. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes for the respective office shall be considered elected to that office; subject to possible revision after hearings of irregularities.

Should two (2) candidates receive an equal number of votes for the same position, the outcome shall be decided by lot drawn by the Election Commission.

(q) Complaints of voting irregularities against Branch officials or members shall be filed with the President of the Election Commission no later than December 5th of the election year. Complaints shall be in the form of an affidavit. A notice of right to file complaints shall be published in the organ of "The Providence" at least once a week beginning on November 15th through December 5th of the election year;

(r) The Election Commission shall resolve all complaints received no later than December 15th of the election year and only then shall the Election Commission announce the final results of the general elections and publish them in the official organ of "The Providence";

(s) The Secretary shall prepare and supply the Election Commission with special forms for tabulating and recording the results of voting.

81. At the commencement of his/her term, each member elected to the General Assembly shall take the official oath of office printed in a special appendix of these Bylaws. Such oath shall be administered collectively by the Protector (or Co-Protector) of “The Providence”.

TERM OF OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

82. Members of the General Assembly are elected for a period of four (4) years, assuming their office at the Spring Convocation of the General Assembly following the elections.
83. Age permitting, any member of the General Assembly may run for reelection.

ELECTION COMMISSION

84. The Election Commission which tabulates the voting results and oversees the election procedure to the General Assembly shall consist of five (5) members. The ballots and election records from all branches participating in the elections shall be forwarded to the President of the Commission in care of the Home Office. Such ballots and election records which are in the hands of the President of the Commission, may be opened, inspected, verified, and counted only at the special meeting of the Election Commission, called for that purpose. The final results of the general elections in all Branches shall be published in the official organ of “The Providence”.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF “THE PROVIDENCE”

85. The executive powers of “The Providence” shall be vested in the Executive Committee, which shall be composed of: The President, Vice-President, Spiritual Director, Secretary, and Treasurer.
86. The Executive Committee shall meet at least once a month and more often when necessary. The President shall call all the meetings.
87. Should the President neglect this duty, a majority of members of the Executive Committee may call a special meeting of the Executive Committee, which shall be conducted by the Vice-President.
88. The executive powers of “The Providence” is lodged in the hands of the Executive Committee. All Branches are obligated to obey its orders and directives.
89. The Executive Committee shall have the right to establish new Branches, confirm their names, admit new members to “The Providence”, generally provide guidance and give

direction to the Branches, Branch officials and members and is responsible for membership growth, and coordinate the organizational activity of the entire system of “The Providence”.

90. The Executive Committee shall have the right to accept or reject petition for admission to membership presented by the Secretary.
91. The Executive Committee shall have the right to hire and dismiss employees needed to conduct the business of “The Providence”, for the publication of its organ and for operation and management of the printing plant. It shall have the right to assign jobs as needed.
92. The elected official, as a member of the Executive Committee of “The Providence”, is solely responsible for carrying out all business and prescribed duties connected with his/her position.

In the absence of the President or Vice-President, it is the senior full-time executive in years of service who is in charge of the day-to-day operations of “The Providence's” Home Office.

TRUSTEES

93. All members of the Executive Committee are simultaneously Trustees of “The Providence”.
94. The Trustees shall have general control over all property of the organization and shall see that the funds of “The Providence” are invested in financially stable institutions and instruments.
95. The Trustees shall have the right, according to their best judgment, to invest the funds of “The Providence” in safe securities consistent with the laws relating to such investments, and therefore they may:
 - (a) buy and sell securities;
 - (b) invest funds in first mortgages and set interest rates;
 - (c) purchase and sell real estate mortgages;
 - (d) appoint attorneys to transact the aforesaid business legally;
 - (e) keep all securities and legal documents in a safe deposit vault of a trustworthy bank.

QUORUM

96. At least three (4) members of the Executive Committee must be present to establish quorum for all valid decisions. All resolutions and decisions of the Executive Committee are made by simple majority vote. The President, as a member of the Executive Committee, has one vote for all such resolutions and decisions.
97. All members of the Executive Committee shall be bonded to assure the faithful execution of their duties and obligations.

COMMITTEES

98. The General Assembly shall have the power to appoint from its own membership or from among the membership of "The Providence" such committees and commissions which it deems necessary for the benefit of the organization.

DELIVERY OF PROPERTY

99. An Officer, whose term of office shall expire because of resignation, removal or the completion of his/her term, must deliver to his/her successor in the office or to the committee elected for that purpose all property of "The Providence": all money, books, documents, etc., in his/her possession, within one week period thereafter.
100. Should any officer intend to resign his/her office voluntarily, he/she is obliged to send a registered letter of resignation, addressed to the President, at least one (1) month prior to the effective date of his/her resignation.

PHYSICIAN

101. With the authorization of the Executive Committee, the President will appoint an Association Physician for "The Providence". The Physician has the obligations to screen all medical claims of applicants, make his/her recommendations and forward them to the Home Office of "The Providence".

ARTICLE VII

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF "THE PROVIDENCE"

102. "The Providence" shall publish an official organ - newspaper "America" which should be read by all its members. Heads of families and single members should subscribe to it.
103. The official newspaper - organ of "The Providence" shall:
 - (a) cultivate spiritual and moral values;

(b) publish official announcements and directives of the General Assembly and the Executive Committee; membership lists, Secretary's and Treasurer's reports, reports to Branches, and in general all that concerns the administration and promotes the development of the organization - its goals and obligations;

(c) to disseminate and reinforce the goals and purposes of "The Providence" which are delineated in Paragraph 7 of these Bylaws, in the Ukrainian-American Community.

104. The Executive Committee shall have the right to supervise all activities and control all business aspects of "America". Should the Executive Committee find "America's" management and staff negligent in the performance of their duties, it shall have the right to act according to Article 6, Paragraph 91, of these Bylaws.

ARTICLE VIII

THE FUNDS OF "THE PROVIDENCE"

105. From time to time, "The Providence" may establish restricted funds to meet the goals of "The Providence" and to be consistent with local governing bodies.

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ARTICLE IX

ADMISSION OF BRANCHES TO “THE PROVIDENCE”

127. At least ten (10) members are necessary to create a Branch of “The Providence”.

128. When ten (10) or more members, having all the qualifications for the membership provided for in the Bylaws, wish to organize a Branch of “The Providence”, they shall meet in body, elect from among themselves a President, Secretary, and Treasurer, choose a name for said Branch, adopt a resolution that said Branch has the intention to be chartered as a Branch of “The Providence” and authorize their officials to forward to the office of “The Providence”, c/o Secretary the following petition:

We, the undersigned, officials of the societyof being authorized by a resolution adopted by our society, at a meeting held on day of ,19....A.D. hereby submit a petition to the Executive Committee of “The Providence”, to accept our Branch/Lodge as a member of “The Providence” Association.

Upon the acceptance of our society into the membership of “The Providence”, we take a pledge to conduct our Branch as a chartered part of the organization in accordance with the provision of the Bylaws in force at present or as they may be altered or amended in the future. We likewise, bind ourselves to obey all orders of the General Assembly and the Executive Committee, and to exclude from our Branch any member who does not conform to the provisions of the Bylaws, or who, by his/her conduct, proves detrimental to the organization.

Given atthis day of A.D. 20..... in the name of
 Society
 President
 Secretary
 Treasurer

129. The Secretary, having received from a society a petition for admission to membership, shall forward to such newly organized Branch application blanks, and any other necessary forms.

Each applicant for membership in “The Providence” shall correctly, conscientiously and truthfully complete the application and obtain a medical health certificate, if needed.

130. Complete applications and medical health certificates of every applicant shall be forwarded by the Secretary of the Society of the prospective Branch to the Secretary, who shall check all documents and dues sent and present them at the next meeting of the Executive Committee for further verification and ratification.
131. The Secretary shall send all medical health certificates received to the Association's Physician for approval or rejection. Should there be no objection whatsoever to the admission of the thus organized applicant to the membership in “The Providence”, the newly established Branch shall receive a number and the Secretary shall send the charter, necessary business books, emblems, membership certificates, due, booklets for each member, the seal of the Branch, and all other materials necessary for official business.
132. Every Branch shall pay for the seal and books necessary for conducting its business within two (2) months after receiving them.
133. A Branch shall be considered an admitted member of “The Providence” from the time the Secretary shall officially notify the officials of the Branch of its admission. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to notify the Branch of its admission or rejection within ten (10) days from the date of the Executive Committee's meeting held; the acceptance shall also be published in the official organ of “The Providence” under the title: “Newly Admitted Branch”. After receiving the official notification and after the promulgation in the organ, the Branch and its members must comply with the provisions of the Bylaws.
134. Should it become evident from submitted applications or medical health certificates, that the entire Branch cannot be admitted to the membership in “The Providence”, all money paid shall be refunded. If only some of the members of the new Branch can be admitted to the membership in “The Providence”, the Secretary shall notify the Branch about this situation and refund the money for rejected applicants.
135. The Executive Committee shall have the right to reject an entire Branch, or any of its members, without being obligated to state any reason for such action. In such cases, the money paid to “The Providence” shall be refunded.

ARTICLE X

OBLIGATIONS OF THE BRANCH TOWARD “THE PROVIDENCE”

136. In addition to the cost of the supplies received upon acceptance, each Branch admitted to “The Providence” shall pay the following fees:
 - a. Such dues as are specified for each registered member which are entered into “The Providence” books and which are calculated by the age of the member and the type of his certificate;
 - b. dues to all funds, as provided in the Bylaws.
137. The Secretary of each Branch has to forward collected monthly membership dues to “The Providence” by check or money order, payable to “The Providence”. He shall equally forward a detailed financial statement for the month.
138. No Branch shall deduct any amount from the sum, which, according to the records of the Home Office, is to be sent to “The Providence”. Should an error occur in the account of the Home Office, the Secretary of the Branch shall notify the Treasurer.
139. Every Branch should forward its collected dues monthly to the Home Office.
140. Should any Branch fail to forward its dues for more than three (3) months, it may be suspended and all members who were in good standing may be transferred to another Branch or withdraw at their own discretion.
141. Each Branch shall be responsible for the prompt remittance of the dues of its members to the Main Office.
142. Business transactions should be conducted between the individual Branch and the Executive Committee rather than with individual members.
143. Any member of the General Assembly does have the right to attend the regular and special meetings of any Branch. Should a member of the General Assembly attend a regular or special meeting of a Branch in an official capacity, the subjects to be discussed and decided upon will have precedence to all other subjects on the agenda of the Branch.
144. At the request of the General Assembly, the Executive Committee or their lawfully delegated representative, each Branch is obliged to submit its business books to an audit and to present a clarification for any matters which may be questioned.
145. Every Branch shall comply with and execute the provisions of the Bylaws. Should any matters arise in the Branch which are neither provided for in the Bylaws nor clearly defined therein, in such cases, the official of the Branch shall request a clarification from the Executive Committee.
146. The officials of every Branch shall be considered the official representatives of their respective Branches.

147. No Branch of “The Providence” can simultaneously become a Branch of any other similar organization.
148. A Branch of “The Providence” established in a locality without a Ukrainian Catholic Church, shall be considering belonging to the nearest Ukrainian Catholic Church in the vicinity.
149. Every Branch shall have the moral duty to present directly to the General Assembly such amendments or changes of the Bylaws as it may deem advantageous for the advancement and growth of the organization.

ARTICLE XI

PENALTIES FOR THE BRANCHES OF “THE PROVIDENCE”

150. The Executive Committee shall have the right to suspend or dissolve any Branch for the following reasons:
 - a. when a Branch fails to fulfill its duties, as written in the Section 139 and 140 hereof;
 - b. when a Branch declines or fails to execute the directives of the General Assembly or Executive Committee;
 - c. when a Branch declines to acknowledge legal suspension of one of its officials;
 - d. when misunderstanding renders the performance of Branch duties impossible.
151. Should one or more stipulations of the penal statues (Section 150) apply to a Branch and should the Executive Committee have sufficient evidence of violations, the Secretary shall notify the Branch of the perpetrated violation and direct the Branch to rectify the wrongdoing within thirty (30) days. Should the Branch fail to comply and correct the violations within the specified period of time, the Executive Committee shall call for a special meeting of the Branch, either by registered letter or through the official organ of “The Providence”. This special meeting shall be conducted by the President or his lawfully delegated representative. Should the Branch still refuse to correct its errors, the President or his appointed representative shall suspend the Branch immediately. The President or his appointed representative shall give a report of this suspension at the next Executive Committee meeting. The Branch has the right to lodge an appeal with the Arbitration Council.
152. Members of an expelled Branch who were not guilty of charges for which the Branch was expelled from “The Providence” or who did not know that the Branch was guilty of an offense, or knowing of it, voted at the meeting of the Branch for the correction of the violation, shall have a right to join another Branch or establish a new Branch.

153. Should either all the officer of a Branch, or its officials individually, neglect to perform their duties, or by their official action inflict injury upon the Branch itself, or upon the entire organization, the President or his authorized representative shall call a special meeting of said Branch, and upon establishing the truth of these allegations, shall have the right to appeal to the Executive Committee within fourteen (14) days from the date of suspension.
154. Should the Executive Committee dismiss the appeal of the suspended official or officials, the Secretary shall notify the respective Branch. Should the Branch, having received the official notification of the suspension, fail within thirty (30) days to elect a new official or officials, the President or his authorized representative shall have the right to appoint such official or officials.

ARTICLE XII

DISSOLUTION, MERGER, DIVISION AND CHANGE OF NAME OF BRANCH

155. A dissolved, expelled, or seceded Branch shall turn over to the President or his authorized representative the charter, seal, business books, personal and real property of the Branch, ownership of which shall revert to "The Providence".
156. In cases where the delivery of the property as aforesaid is refused or opposed, the Executive Committee shall initiate legal proceedings to recover the same.
157. No Branch shall be dissolved as long as ten (10) members belonging to it perform the duties prescribed in the Bylaws and are against dissolution.
158. These ten (10) members continue to constitute the Branch, elect officials from among themselves, and assume ownership of all personal and real property of the remaining Branch.
159. Such newly elected President of the regrouped Branch shall demand from the past President or officials the delivery of all property; in case of refusal, the new officials shall notify the Executive Committee, which shall demand the surrender of said property and if delivery of said property is still opposed or denied, the Executive Committee shall initiate legal proceedings to recover the same.
160. Should a Branch that has been expelled, be readmitted to the membership in "The Providence", its property shall be returned.
161. No Branch shall change its established and chartered name on its own and without the approval of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee may approve a change of the name of any Branch, if at a meeting of a Branch, two-thirds (2/3) of all members should favor such a change.

162. Two or more Branches, situated in the same or in nearby localities, may merge into one Branch if each of the Branches gathered at a special meeting called for this purpose, agrees to a resolution for such a merger by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote. Such merger shall be subject of the respective resolutions of the Branches and the approval of the Executive Committee.
163. Should a Branch wish to move from one location to another, it shall call a special meeting for the purpose of voting thereon and adopting a resolution to that effect. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of all members shall be required. This resolution shall be submitted to the Executive Committee for approval.

ARTICLE XIII

THE DUTIES OF "THE PROVIDENCE" MEMBERS

164. Each member of "The Providence" shall abide by the provisions of the Bylaws, and fulfill his/her financial and other duties prescribed therein.
165. Each member shall attend meetings of the Branch of which he/she is a member and especially the meetings at which the officials of the Branch are elected.
166. Every member shall pay his/her dues to "The Providence" through his/her Branch or directly to the Home Office of "The Providence".
167. A member of a local Branch desiring to submit a grievance against a Branch official may do so. Such a complaint shall be signed by at least two (2) members of the said Branch, sworn to before a notary public and forwarded to the Executive Committee for an investigation and resolution.
168. Should a member fail to pay his/her dues to "The Providence" for six (6) months, he/she shall be suspended by the Secretary; and should such suspended member fail to pay his/her dues in arrears within the next thirty (30) days, the President shall expel him/her from the organization.
169. An expelled member may thereafter make application for reinstatement to the membership in "The Providence". An approval of reinstatement is made only by the Executive Board of "The Providence".

ARTICLE XIV

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186. The Executive Committee has the right, at any time it deems appropriate, to introduce new forms of certificates and set such dues which according to its calculation seem reasonable, with the provision that such new certificates are in accord with state laws to which "The Providence" is subject.

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ARTICLE XV

BENEFICIARIES

- 197. Every person becoming a member of “The Providence” must state in his/her application form his/her legal name address and relationship, if any, to the person or persons who shall be entitled to receive mortuary benefit in the event of member's death.
- 198. The mortuary benefit may be made payable to any person or persons, legal entity or unincorporated benevolent, religious, charitable, educational or other philanthropic institutions, as may be directed by the wish or will of the member; or he/she may apply such benefit to his/her estate.
- 199. The member may change the beneficiary names in the benefit policy at any time, as long as the policy is in force. Such change will be valid only when approved at the Home Office of “The Providence” by an endorsement on the policy by either the President, Vice-President, or by the Secretary of “The Providence”.
- 200. The applicant for membership shall have the right to bequeath a part or the entire mortuary benefit to cover the expenses of his/her funeral.
- 201. Should a member survive his/her beneficiaries and fail to substitute new ones, the death benefit shall be payable to the estate of such deceased member or those who paid for the funeral expenses.
- 202. Should a beneficiary cause the death of a member and be found guilty thereof by the court, he/she shall forfeit all rights to the mortuary benefit and the benefit shall be payable to the estate of the deceased.

203. Should any member, sane or insane, commit suicide, within the period that the policy may be contested consistent with the state laws, the beneficiaries shall forfeit all their rights to the death benefit, and the dues shall be refunded. Should any member commit suicide, resulting from prior and conclusively proven insanity, said member's beneficiary shall be entitled to the death benefit.
204. Burial expenses shall be paid to the persons or Branch who will furnish the Executive Committee with proof of them having paid such expenses; or should the burial expenses, not exceeding amount of benefit, be paid from the estate of the deceased, the entire death benefit may be paid to the beneficiary or the estate of such deceased member.

ARTICLE XVI

FORFEITURE OF DEATH BENEFIT

205. Should a member falsify his/her age in the application for membership, his/her beneficiaries shall receive the amount of benefit commensurate to dues paid at the correct age.

Should a member or the examining Physician misrepresent the condition of health of an applicant for membership, "The Providence" reserves the right to cancel said policy in coverage.

206. When a member is expelled from the organization, he/she shall lose all rights to the death benefit, except the nonforfeiture values of his/her certificate.

ARTICLE XVII

PROOF OF MEMBER'S DEATH AND PAYMENT OF MORTUARY BENEFIT

207. In the event of a member's death, it shall be the duty of the Branch Secretary to determine the facts concerning such death and report the same at the earliest possible date to the Home Office.
208. The official proof of a member's death is a copy of the death certificate registered with the Bureau of Vital Statistics of the local municipality. Such document should be forwarded by the Branch Secretary to the Home Office prior to the release of any funds.
209. Should a member die in a locality remote from the seat of the Branch, the Executive Committee shall have the right to request such evidence of the death as it shall deem necessary.
210. Should a member die outside the borders of the United States, the certificate of death must be ascertained by the clergyman who officiated at the funeral and be acknowledged by the American Consulate.

211. Should a member be reported dead or missing in action while actively serving in the armed forces of the United States, without positive proof of his/her death, and “The Providence”, relatives or government officials relate no news of his/her being alive for a three (3) year period; and he/she has been legally “declared dead”, mortuary benefits will be paid to his/her beneficiaries.
212. In cases cited in the aforesaid paragraph, it shall be the duty of the beneficiary or beneficiaries to provide the Executive Committee with evidence regarding such deceased member's service in the armed forces, date of entry and circumstances of death.
213. All checks for death benefits shall be mailed either to the Branches or to the beneficiaries as requested.
214. The mortuary benefit shall be paid within ninety (90) days from the date of death of a member, barring any unforeseen litigations.

ARTICLE XVIII

AMENDMENT TO THE BYLAWS

215. As a legislative body, the General Assembly of “The Providence” shall have the power to make amendments to the Bylaws of the Association upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote of its members at a lawfully convened meeting thereof. All such amendments shall be presented to the Home Office at least thirty (30) days prior to the annual General Assembly, who shall refer the same to the Bylaws Committee for their recommendations.

ARTICLE XIX

BRANCH BYLAWS

GOALS OF THE BRANCH

216. The goal of every Branch shall be to organize and attract members; to promote virtuous, moral and upright Christian life of its members; to give brotherly aid to the infirm members, and at time of death, to participate in their funerals with compassion and dignity according to the teachings of the Catholic Church.

MEMBERS OF THE BRANCH AND THEIR ADMISSION

217. Only a person who conforms with the provisions of these Bylaws of “The Providence” may become a member of the Branch.

DUTIES OF MEMBERS OF BRANCHES

218. Every member of a Branch of “The Providence” shall: unconditionally obey the provisions of the Bylaws of “The Providence”, care for its growth; lead a virtuous, upright life; and live in harmony, friendship, and cooperation with all members.
219. Every member shall be entitled to wear the emblem of “The Providence”.
220. All members are encouraged to attend all Branch meetings and must pay all dues regularly and promptly. Members living at localities remote from the seat of the Branch, shall attend the annual, semiannual and special meetings and they may forward their dues, together with the membership booklet, to the Secretary of the Branch.
221. A member leaving the locality of his/her Branch, permanently or for a period longer than a month, shall notify the Secretary of the Branch and furnish him/her with his/her new address.
222. Members changing their residence permanently or for a longer period than one (1) month shall notify the Secretary of the Branch within five (5) days about the change of address.
223. It is the duty of all members to visit a sick or injured fellow member.
224. A member taken ill shall duly notify the Secretary of the Branch.
225. A member, who is good faith, unintentionally, submitted his/her incorrect age in his/her membership application, becoming conscious of the fact, can correct his/her error. If the age submitted in the declaration is less than his/her actual age, he/she shall pay the difference between the assessment due for a lesser age and his/her actual age for the period of his/her membership under the incorrect age. A member who submitted a higher than his/her actual age in his/her declaration, shall from the time of correction of the error, pay dues proportionate to his/her actual age. A member misstating his/her age in his/her declaration and during the process of correcting this mistake, discovering that his/her actual age (at the time of admission to the membership in the organization) did not entitle him/her to the amount of mortuary benefit insurance, shall have his/her insurance adjusted to the lesser amount he/she would be entitled to according to his/her real age.
- Should a person refuse to agree to the adjustment, he/she shall forfeit his/her membership and all rights to benefits.
226. The Branch Secretary shall make the aforementioned correction at the Branch meeting and he/she shall report the entire case to the Executive Committee.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

227. Each member shall pay dues to “The Providence” regularly according to his/her term payment (e.g. monthly, quarterly, semiannually, annually) and assessment. Each member shall also pay such dues as are determined by the local Branch.
228. Each member may pay his/her dues in person during Branch meetings or by mail in care of the address of the Branch meetings.
229. Should suspended members pay lapsed dues within thirty (30) days from the date of their suspension, they shall be reinstated as members.
230. Should a member be suspended through an error, such member is to be reinstated.
231. The Branch Secretary shall forward to “The Providence” the following materials with each report: all collected dues as well as a list of members who paid them, a financial statement of the branch's activities, copies of any archival records, and a list of any changes in membership status which may have taken place in the Branch since the preceding payment of dues. The Home Office will also provide the Branch Secretary with company assessment forms to be used in conjunction with his/her reports.
232. All payments to “The Providence” shall be made either by check or money order, made payable to the order of “The Providence”.

TRANSFERS

233. Members intending to change from one Branch to another, shall present a petition to the Branch Administration for transfer letters and at the same time pay all debts to the Branch of departure and “The Providence”.
234. The Branch shall issue a letter of transfer to those members who have paid all dues to the Branch and to “The Providence”. Should the Branch arbitrarily refuse to issue such a letter of transfer to a member, the Executive Committee may do so.
235. When members, presenting the letters of transfer, join another Branch, the officials of the said Branch shall collect from them all dues in arrears from the date the letters of transfer were issued to the date of transfer and note the payment on same letters.
236. Should members receiving letters of transfer fail to enter another Branch within two (2) months of the date of issue of these letters, the President shall expel such members from the organization and publish this in the official organ of “The Providence”.

BRANCH TREASURY

237. The Branch Treasury shall accumulate from the dues to the Branch - various functions and entertainment activities, donations, bequests, etc. These funds shall be maintained in a separate Branch account.
238. The Treasury of the Branch shall be used for the benefit of the infirm and disabled members, arrears of members, funeral expenses, and to support the goals of "The Providence".
239. The entire Branch Treasury shall be the property of "The Providence" and may not be used for payment of personal debts of members nor for disbursement among members of the given Branch at any time, even after the dissolution of a Branch.

OFFICIALS OF THE BRANCH AND THEIR ELECTION

240. Whenever possible, the Branch officials should be: The President, Secretary, Treasurer, and an Auditing Committee of at least two (2) persons. Other recommended Branch officials are the positions of Vice-President and Assistant to the Secretary.
241. The election of Branch officials should be held every year and the newly elected officials shall execute their duties for a one (1) year period or until the new administration is elected.
242. Every member of the Branch who has fulfilled his/her membership duties, is a member of the said Branch for at least one (1) year, and is not an official of any other fraternal organization or branch, shall be qualified for election to any office in the Branch.
243. Every member who has fulfilled his/her duties as a member shall have the right to vote at the election of Branch officials.
244. Only such members shall be considered elected officials, who received an absolute majority vote of all members present at the electoral meeting. In case of a tie for the same office, a second balloting shall be conducted. If the second balloting results in a tie again, the members shall vote for the two (2) candidates with the highest number of votes. Should this third balloting result in a tie again, the President of the Branch shall decide by drawing lots.
245. Voting can be open or secret ballot, by a prepared ballot listing those running for officers or by voting for each official individually - depending on the decision of the majority present at the electoral meeting. Votes shall be counted by a committee consisting of two (2) members appointed by the President of the Branch.
246. Should an office become vacant, for any reason, and there is no elected official who succeeds automatically thereto, the President shall fill the vacancy for the duration of the unexpired term by appointment.

247. In case of an official's temporary incapacity, the Branch President may appoint a temporary substitute. The incapacitated official should immediately turn over to his/her substitute all books, money, and property of his/her office during this period.
248. Should a Branch official be guilty of misconduct and his/her continuation in office becomes detrimental to the organization, he/she may be removed from his/her post according to the provisions of the Bylaws.

DUTIES OF BRANCH OFFICIALS

249. Branch officials shall be obliged to attend all Branch meetings. Any official failing to attend two (2) consecutive meetings without submitting an excuse for his/her absence, may be removed from the office.
250. The Branch President shall convene, open, preside over and adjourn all Branch meetings. He/She shall submit all matters for discussion and keep order during debates. He/She shall have the right to call to order any members disturbing the meeting. The President may revoke the floor privileges of any member who is out of order.
251. The Branch President shall insure that each official fulfills his/her duties and obligations conscientiously and accurately.
252. He/She shall strive to see that no resolution shall be passed which is contrary to the provisions of the Bylaws.
253. He/She shall co-sign checks with the Secretary and Treasurer.
254. The Branch President shall have no voting privileges except at the election of new officials; admission of new applicants to membership; and in case of a tie when his/her vote shall be decisive.
255. The Branch Vice-President shall perform all duties of the President when directed by the President or during the latter's absence.
256. The Secretary shall keep accurate minutes of the Branch meetings of Branch officials and members.
257. He/She shall be in charge and receive the general Branch correspondence; be the keeper of the Branch seal and books; and read the minutes of the preceding meeting.
258. He/She shall keep all records of Branch meetings and its financial accounts.
259. He/She shall sign and affix the Branch seal to all payment orders approved by the Branch, present them for co-signatures to the President and Treasurer and enter same in the Branch expenditures ledger.

260. He/She shall make a monthly report of all newly admitted, suspended, injured or deceased members for the current month, and forward it to the Secretary no later than the 25th of each month. He/She shall also send the addresses of the newly admitted members and the names of all persons to whom letters of transfer were issued.
261. He/She shall keep a record of all infirm members and he/she shall notify the Branch President of the same.
262. He/She shall send an annual progress report of Branch activities to the Executive Committee.
263. He/She shall notify the Branch members of the date of special meetings, as well as of the death of any Branch members giving the date and time of the funeral at which all Branch members shall participate.
264. The Assistant Secretary shall attend each meeting and assist the Secretary in his/her work. In case of the Secretary's absence, he/she shall perform all secretarial duties.
265. The Branch Treasurer shall receive and deposit all money in a bank designated by the Branch.
266. He/She shall pay all payment orders issued to him/her by the Branch Secretary which have been confirmed by the Branch President's signature and the Branch seal. All payments shall be issued by check, co-signed by the President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
267. He/She shall keep an accurate account of all expenses and income. He/She shall present an accurate financial report at every monthly Branch meeting.
268. At the termination of his/her office, he/she shall prepare a financial statement and turn over all books, receipts, money and property to his/her successor.
269. The Branch Auditing Committee shall consist of at least two (2) members. Their duty shall be to audit the books, and accounts of the Branch at least once a year. Should they discover any inconsistencies or shortages in the Treasury, they shall immediately report the findings at the Branch meeting.
270. The Branch may stipulate remunerations for its officials.
271. Every local Ukrainian Catholic pastor or administrator who is a member of "The Providence" has the following rights in regard to his Branch of "The Providence".
 - (a) to attend all Branch meetings of "The Providence" held within the area of his pastoral activity;
 - (b) to participate in discussions;

- (c) to arbitrate and settle disputes among members of “The Providence” and to promote the goals and aims of “The Providence”.
272. Every new member must take the oath printed in the appendix of these Bylaws.
273. Branch meetings should be held as often as needed, on a day and in a place determined by the Branch officials, who should provide advance notice to its membership.
274. The Branch President shall have the right to call a special meeting him/herself or on demand of two-thirds (2/3) of the members or on demand of the Executive Committee of “The Providence”.
275. The Branch Secretary shall notify all members of the special meetings.
276. At the special meeting only such matters shall be considered as the meeting was called for.
277. The meeting shall consist of the following program:
- (a) Call to order by the President and Opening Prayer;
 - (b) Roll call of officials and members by the Secretary who shall note the absentees;
 - (c) Reading of the minutes of the preceding meeting;
 - (d) Admission of members presenting letters of transfer;
 - (e) Reading of applications for benefits;
 - (f) Collection of membership dues and other assessments of “The Providence” and the Branch;
 - (g) Financial report of the preceding meeting;
 - (h) Reports of officials and committees;
 - (j) Unfinished business;
 - (k) New business;
 - (l) Election of officials;
 - (m) Publication of suspended and expelled members;
 - (n) Adjournment and Prayer.

278. A member asking the privilege of the floor shall address the President.
279. When permitted the privilege of the floor, the member shall adhere to the topic under discussion and members shall wait their turn to have the privilege of the floor.
280. When a matter has been sufficiently discussed, the President shall close the debate.
281. Every member shall observe Parliamentary Procedures. Should a member fail to do so, the President shall first call the speaker to order, and in case of repetition, deprive him/her of the floor privilege.
282. Voting at meetings shall be done by a show of hands, or upon demand of one-third of the members, by ballot.
283. A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum for business at all meetings.

BYLAWS OF THE BRANCH

284. Every Branch shall adhere strictly to the Bylaws of “The Providence”. In addition to these Bylaws of “The Providence”, the Branch can adopt its own special book of rules which can be altered, corrected or amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all Branch members.
285. The local Branch book of rules shall not contravene the provision of the Bylaws of “The Providence”.

ANNUAL BRANCH CELEBRATIONS

286. A Branch shall observe two (2) holidays each year: The Patroness of “The Providence” - Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the day of the Branch Patron.
287. On each of the two (2) holidays, each member is obligated to assist at the Divine Liturgy and receive Holy Communion corporately.

ARTICLE XX

SUSPENSION AND REMOVAL FROM THE OFFICE OF A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

288. A member of the General Assembly of “The Providence” shall be suspended and removed from the office, when it has been ascertained that:
 - (a) to be elected to the General Assembly he/she employed deceit, calumny, slander or other dishonest methods, and induced others to employ the same;
 - (b) he/she neglected to perform his/her duties through ineptness or otherwise;

- (c) he/she made unauthorized payments or was involved in the unlawful expenditure of monies from “The Providence's” Treasury;
 - (d) he/she purposefully misappropriated funds from “The Providence's” Treasury for his/her personal benefit or that of another;
 - (e) he/she consciously and with harmful results to “The Providence” violated the Bylaws of the organization, the resolutions of the Executive Committee or the decisions of the General Assembly: all of which are approved by this organization.
289. A grievance can be brought against any member of the General Assembly by the Executive or Auditing Committees, or any other member of the General Assembly, Branch or member of “The Providence”. A grievance must be submitted to the President or the Chairmen of the Auditing Committee in writing. Having received a grievance, the President or Chairman of the Auditing Committee must inform the accused party of the said grievance.
290. The Arbitration Council: The Arbitration Council of “The Providence” consists of the President or Vice-President, Spiritual Director, Chairman of the Auditing Committee as well as two Directors, elected at a meeting of the General Assembly.
291. The Arbitration Council has the power to hear and resolve (if possible) the following matters:
- (a) appeals by members and/or Branches regarding punitive decision made by the Executive Committee;
 - (b) all grievances in which the accused party (or parties) is a member (or members) of the General Assembly.
292. Meeting of the Arbitration Council: The Arbitration Council shall normally meet during the annual meeting of the General Assembly. Should there be a number of matters to be discussed, requiring prompt attention, the Arbitration Council may convene again during the year. If in any case, either the aggrieved or the accused party demands an immediate hearing and will prepay the costs of the same, the Arbitration Council shall convene a special session for that purpose.

INQUEST, JUDGMENT AND SENTENCE

293. The Arbitration Council shall conduct an inquiry by obtaining testimony from the accused party and witnesses, and should the accused party be found at fault, the Arbitration Council shall impose a sentence. A quorum of at least three (3) members is necessary to render a valid decision; a judgment requires a majority vote of the present members of the Arbitration Council. The accused member of the General Assembly

cannot take part in the deliberations and voting of the Arbitration Council when it is reviewing and adjudicating his/her case.

APPEALS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

294. A member of the General Assembly may appeal an Arbitration Council decision in writing to the President of the General Assembly. A meeting of the General Assembly to hear and decide this appeal must convene not later than sixty (60) days after the appeal has been lodged. The presence of at least twelve (12) members of the General Assembly is necessary for a valid decision of the General Assembly which functions as an Arbitration Tribunal. This Arbitration Tribunal can either uphold or overturn a decision of the Arbitration Council and its decision will be final and irrevocable. A minimum of two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present is required to reach a decision.
- 295 The minutes of the proceedings of the Arbitration Tribunal shall be kept by the Secretary, or if he/she is the accused, by the Treasurer or any other member of the General Assembly, appointed by the President to act as such.

SUBMISSION TO A CIVIL COURT

296. If a member of the General Assembly of “The Providence” unlawfully appropriated or used monies of the organization, he/she may be prosecuted in a civil court and the Executive Committee shall use all legal means possible to recover monies lost by “The Providence”.

BRANCH DELINQUENCIES

297. The Executive Committee has the right to suspend or dissolve any Branch for transgressions foreseen in the Bylaws.
298. Any Branch shall have the right to appeal its case to the Arbitration Council.

OFFENSES BY BRANCH OFFICIALS

299. Should the following be proven, any official may be removed from his/her post:
- a) for neglect of duties;
 - b) for demanding and receiving compensation from beneficiaries of a deceased member;
 - c) for falsely preparing a certificate and a proof of member's death. In such cases, the Executive Committee conducts an investigation and removes the guilty official.

300. Should the Branch official purloin Branch monies or the death benefit sent by “The Providence” for the deceased member, the Executive Committee may forward the case to the civil courts and expel the perpetrator from the organization.

DELINQUENCIES OF MEMBERS

301. Any member, found guilty of transgressing any part of “The Providence” Bylaws shall be admonished, pay a monetary fine, or he/she shall be expelled from “The Providence” following a hearing by the Executive Committee.
302. A member, who was convicted of a crime by the civil court, may lose his/her membership rights.
303. A member of “The Providence” shall lose his/her membership rights and privileges when it can be proven that: he/she belongs to an organization forbidden by the Catholic Church; he/she abandons the Catholic Church; he/she is hostile to the Catholic Church and its authorities; he/she became a member of “The Providence” by false means; he/she inflicts moral and material damage on the organization; he/she purposefully misappropriates the money of the Branch or “The Providence”; he/she becomes a notorious drunkard or drug addict; he/she opposes the rules of these Bylaws; he/she dissuades people from becoming members of “The Providence” and generally leads a scandalous and immoral life.
304. Any member of “The Providence” may file a complaint against any official of a Branch with the President of the Branch, or when the complaint shall be against the President, with the Vice-President.
305. The President, having received the complaint, shall summon the accused to appear not later than thirty (30) days from the date of the delivery of the complaint to resolve it. In case of the President's inability to settle the issue, he/she should turn to the General Executive Committee to resolve the case.

ARTICLE XXI

SUSPENSION, REMOVAL, AND EXPULSION FROM OFFICE

SUSPENSION

306. Suspension of a Branch official shall temporarily interrupt all his/her official duties until such time when the case has finally been resolved.
307. During the suspension of an Executive or Branch official, his/her salary is temporarily withheld. Should such an official be removed from office, he/she shall forfeit all his/her rights to any withheld salary; if innocent, his/her withheld salary shall be paid.

REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

308. Removal from the Executive or Branch office shall result in the forfeiture of all rights to perform official duties. A removed Executive or Branch official shall never hold office in the organization.

EXPULSION

309. Expulsion from the organization shall include the loss of all rights and privileges of the Branch and of “The Providence”, except for the benefits listed in the nonforfeiture provision of the member's certificate.

ARTICLE XXII

JUVENILE MEMBERS

310. (a) Children under 16 years of age may be insured by “The Providence”; children whose parents are deceased may be insured by the guardians. Said children must be mentally and physically sound.
- (b) In case of doubt concerning the age of a child, the officials of the respective Branches may demand a birth certificate.
- (c) Applications of children under age 16 shall be signed by the parents of the child or the natural or legal guardians.
311. Duties of parents and guardians:
- (a) to pay dues regularly;
- (b) to see that children attend the Divine Liturgy every Sunday;
- (c) to see that the children attend regularly the Cathachetical or Religious instruction given by the priest or religious instructors in our Rite;
- (d) to see that children go to confession and receive Holy Communion;
- (e) to see that children attend a Ukrainian Catholic School or Ukrainian Heritage School;
- (f) to teach children respect and obedience.
312. Deleted
313. Deleted

ACCOUNTING AND DIVIDENDS

314. (a) It shall be the duty of the General Assembly to make an accounting and valuation at the close of business on the 31st day of December of each year, for the purpose of ascertaining the costs of mortality, the administrative cost and the reserves required upon the certificate granted.
- (b) If such accounting and valuation shall disclose a surplus after providing for mortuary expense and reserve, such surplus may at the discretion of the General Assembly, be apportioned to the members, paid to them as dividends. The amount of such surplus and method of distribution shall be determined by the General Assembly so as to best conserve and safeguard the interest of "The Providence", but no distribution of surplus shall be declared which shall effect a reduction of the surplus below a sum equal to 10% of the outstanding liabilities.

315. Deleted

CLOSING COMMENTS

In the event of a discrepancy in interpreting any of the aforementioned paragraphs of the Ukrainian and English texts of these Bylaws, the English text will take precedence.

APPENDIX

OATH OF NEWLY-ELECTED BRANCH OFFICIAL

I,....., swear before the Lord God, one in the Holy Trinity, and Saint, Patron of Our Branch, that as of this Branch, I will honestly and conscientiously perform all duties connected with my office, that I will treat all members justly and impartially and promote welfare and development of the Branch and “The Providence” with all my strength. So help me God. Amen.

OATH OF OFFICERS

I, (official) in “The Providence Association”, swear before Lord God, and in the Holy Trinity, before the Blessed Virgin Mary, Patroness of our Organization, before my Holy Guardian Angel and all the Saints, that I will honestly and faithfully perform all my duties connected with the administration of the organization and do nothing detrimental to the moral or material welfare of the organization, during the term of my office. My sacred duty shall be to see that “The Providence” funds shall not be expended carelessly or improperly, but applied in aiding such persons to whom it shall be due according to the provisions of the Bylaws. At the same time, I promise to further the development of “The Providence” with all my power, by faithful execution of the regulations of the Bylaws as well as by promoting this organization among Ukrainian Catholics in America. So help me God. Amen.