## SOUTHERN MARYLAND INTERGROUP ASSOCIATION, INC.

## BY-LAWS

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## ARTICLE 1 <br> NAME

1.1. The name of this organization (which is hereafter called the Corporation), shall be the Southern Maryland Intergroup Association, Inc. (SMIA).

## ARTICLE 2 <br> PURPOSE

2.1 The primary purpose of said Corporation shall be to aid in the relief and recovery of persons suffering from alcoholism and it's attending problems. To accomplish this, the Corporation is empowered to do the following:
2.1.1 To receive and disburse funds. To perform any other lawful acts necessary or desirable to carry on any of the Corporate purposes.
2.1.2 To carry on any activity; to purchase, acquire, hold and/or dispose of any property (real, personal, or mixed), as may be requisite or desirable for the transaction of the business or the affairs of the Corporation.
2.1.3 To acquire property for Corporate purposes by grant, gift, purchase, wills or bequeaths. Individual contributions shall not exceed the limitations prescribed by the AA General Service Office.
2.1.4 The core function of said corporation is to maintain a toll-free help number, provide updated meeting list and maintain a website.

## ARTICLE 3 MEMBERSHIP

3.1 Membership is open to any AA group or AA meeting in Calvert, Charles, St. Mary's or nearby counties that select to participate in the Corporation.
3.2 Each participating group shall elect one person as its Intergroup Representative to serve as its voice in the affairs of the Corporation and to vote its wishes. Each group may elect one or more alternate representative(s) as it deems necessary, but voting remains at one vote per group. No person shall have more than one (1) vote.
3.3 The aggregate of the Intergroup Representatives, their alternates, Standing Committee Chairs and Districts Representatives for Corrections \& Treatment and Public Information \& Cooperation with the Professional Community shall be known as and hereafter referred to as the Membership.
3.4 Each member shall be given a copy of these By-Laws.

## ARTICLE 4 <br> MANAGEMENT

4.1 The business and the property of the Corporation, except as otherwise provided for by statute or these By-Laws, shall be conducted and managed by the Board of Directors.
4.2 The membership of the Corporation shall meet once each month with the Board of Directors. Other meetings of the membership of the Corporation may be called at any time by the Chairperson or by a majority of the Board of Directors. Such meetings shall be announced by the Secretary or Chair not less than five (5) days prior to the meeting date.
4.3 All actions taken by the membership are subjected to approval by the Board of Directors except as provided in Section 6.8. Action taken by the membership at its regular meeting shall be deemed to be approved by the Directors UNLESS a specific objection is noted by one or more of the Directors present. This sub-section shall NOT overrule the provisions of ARTICLE 9 (AMENDMENTS) of these By-Laws.
4.4 The Board of Directors shall have the responsibility to review all contributions to the Corporation.
4.5 The Board of Directors shall approve all amendments, additions~ and deletions to the ByLaws as provided in ARTICLE 9 (AMENDMENTS).
4.6 Powers not specifically assigned to the Directors by these By-Laws shall reside with the membership.
4.7 No Director, member or employee of the Corporation shall receive or be lawfully entitled to receive any profit from the operations of the Corporation.
4.8 In general, compensation for personal services rendered is not provided. Exceptions must be authorized in advance by the Finance Committee, approved by the Board of Directors and voted on by the membership.
4.9 The registration of the Corporation shall be duly maintained in the Counties of Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's; State of Maryland. Such Corporation shall be kept current by appropriate payments of taxes, etc., if applicable, which shall be taken from the funds of the Southern Maryland Intergroup Association.
4.10 The original copy of the Articles of Incorporation, current and previous By-Laws and other documents deemed appropriate shall be stored in a safe deposit box provided by the Corporation.

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## ARTICLE 5 <br> DIRECTORS

5.1 The number of Directors shall be five (5); one (1) County Director from Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's Counties and two (2) Directors "at large". The location of the Directors' "Home Group' shall determine the "residence" of the Director. The Directors shall serve as officers of the Corporation. They shall be Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Parliamentarian. The Chair position shall rotate in succession among the three (3) Counties. In the event there are no qualified, willing candidates for Chair, the position shall rotate to the next County and the rotation shall continue.

### 5.2 EACH DIRECTOR MUST BE A MEMBER OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS. It is mandatory that each Director have at least two (2) years of continuous sobriety.

5.3 Directors shall be elected from the membership for two (2) year terms. The Chair and Secretary shall be elected in ODD NUMBERED years and the Vice Chair, Treasurer, and Parliamentarian shall be elected in the following year. No Director shall be elected to more than three (3) terms in succession. No Director shall serve a consecutive term in any one office. The terms of office shall begin on the second (2nd) Saturday of April. Each Director shall hold office until a qualified successor is elected unless the Director resigns, is removed or dies.
5.3.1 In the event the membership, as set forth in ARTICLE 3, Section 3.3, DOES NOT have a willing qualified candidate, then other candidates will be nominated.
5.3.2 When more than one (1) Director "resides" in the same County, they shall determine which is the "County Director". To ensure each County has a Board member, "County Directors" should maintain their "residence" during term in office. ARTICLE 5, Section 5.7.2 applies.

### 5.4 ELECTING THE DIRECTORS

5.4.1 The provisions of ARTICLE 7, Section 7.4 apply.
5.4.2 At the February Membership meeting, nominations will be accepted from the Nominating Committee. All nominations must comply with ARTICLE 5.
5.4.3 At the annual membership meeting in March, further nominations that comply with ARTICLE 5 will be accepted and the elections shall be held.
5.4.4 Elections shall be by office. Voting will be by secret written ballot except as provided below.
5.4.5 The parliamentarian shall distribute ballots to qualified voters only.

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5.4.6 Ballots shall be counted and the results announced by two (2) members designated by the Chair.
5.4.7 The nominee securing the largest number of votes shall be declared elected.
5.4.8 In the event of a tie vote between two (2) nominees, the names of both will be placed in a hat and the winner will be determined by random selection.
5.4.9 In the absence of an opposing nominee for any office, the Chair shall direct the Secretary to cast one (1) vote for the candidate who shall then be declared elected.

### 5.5 DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

5.5.1 CHAIR- The Chair shall be the Director of the Corporation and shall preside at all Board of Directors and Membership meetings. All powers ordinarily exercised by the President of a Corporation shall be exercised by the Chair. The Chair shall appoint all committees and serve as ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.
5.5.2 VICE CHAIR- In the absence of the Chair, the Vice Chair shall assume all roles and authority usually vested in the Chair and can be assigned such other duties as the Chair may direct.
5.5.3 SECRETARY- The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the Corporation and shall perform all duties of a Secretary of a Corporation. In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair, the Secretary shall preside.
5.5.4 TREASURER- The Treasurer shall pay all obligations incurred by the membership, have charge of and be responsible for all funds, securities, receipts, disbursements of the Corporation and shall perform all duties ordinarily incidental to the office of a Treasurer. The Treasurer shall serve as the Chair of the Finance Committee.
5.5.5 PARLIAMENTARIAN -The Parliamentarian shall be responsible to ensure that all procedures, meetings, and actions taken by the Membership, Board of Directors and/or Executive Committee are in accordance with:
A. The Articles of Incorporation
B. The By-Laws of the Corporation
C. Roberts Rules of Order

In the event of a conflict between the above, The Articles of Incorporation shall take precedence over the By-Laws and the By-Laws shall take precedence over Roberts Rules of Order. In the absence of the Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary, the Parliamentarian shall preside at the membership meetings.
5.5.6 ASSISTANTS - The Chair may appoint one or more Assistant Secretaries and/or

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Treasurers from the members of the Corporation to serve as needed.

### 5.6 RESIGNATION OR REMOVAL OF DIRECTORS FROM OFFICE

5.6.1 Any Director who desires to resign should submit a written letter of resignation to the Board of Directors Chair. If the Chair chooses to resign, he/she should address the resignation to the Vice Chair. All other members of the Board shall be immediately notified of the resignation. The Chair shall hold an election at the next scheduled meeting of the membership to replace the Director for the remainder of the current term.
5.6.2 An unexplained absence from two (2) regularly scheduled meetings shall constitute just cause for removal.
5.6.3 Any member of the Board who drinks alcohol shall be removed.
5.6.4 Any Director may be removed for just cause. The majority vote of the membership shall prevail on a motion to remove a Director. No action shall be taken to remove a Director unless he/she has been advised by certified mail at least five (5) days prior to the meeting that the removal is to be considered. Prior to a vote being taken on the removal, the Director shall have the opportunity to speak on his or her behalf or to be represented by another to speak for him/her.

### 5.7 MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

5.7.1 The Board of Directors shall meet each month with the membership to conduct affairs of the Corporation. Other meetings shall be held as needed. The Board of Directors Chair or any other two (2) Directors may call a meeting as required.
5.7.2 A quorum of three (3) Directors shall be necessary and sufficient to conduct all business of the Board provided always that two (2) of the members present shall be "County Directors".
5.7.2.1 In order to ensure timely transaction of Corporate affairs, each Director shall designate one person to cast his/her proxy vote AS A DIRECTOR. This proxy will be valid only during the term of office of the Director making the declaration. This proxy will be recorded with the Parliamentarian and may be changed at any time. This proxy vote will be cast ONLY in the absence of a Director as provided by Section 5.7.2 and ONLY in the event the Board of Directors are instructed to meet under the provisions of Section 6.8 of these ByLaws.
5.7.3 The Board shall keep minutes of its meetings and a full account of all of its transactions.
5.7.4 All meetings shall be open to any AA member who has business with the Board.

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## ARTICLE 6 <br> MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

### 6.1 The provisions of Section 4.2 apply.

6.2 All meetings of the membership shall be open to any AA member and shall be conducted in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order unless otherwise provided in the Articles of Incorporation or herein. The meeting will be held the second Saturday of each month at a time to be set by the membership.
6.2.1 An annual meeting of the members of the Corporation shall be held at the Intergroup Office or elsewhere, on the second (2nd) Saturday of March of each year at the designated meeting time. The purpose of this meeting is to elect Directors.
6.2.2 During the first (1st) week of February each year, each Intergroup

Representative will notify his/her group of the date, time, place and purpose of the annual meeting.
6.3 A quorum consists of five (5) VOTING members and at least two (2) Directors. A quorum thus constituted shall be necessary and sufficient to conduct any business of the membership except as provided elsewhere in these By-laws.
6.4 At all meetings, wherever practical, the order of business shall be as follows:
A. Call to order
B. Reading of minutes of Preceding Meeting(s)
C. Reports of Officers and Committees
D. Elections of Officers/Directors (When required)
E. Old Business
F. New Business
G. Good of the Order
H. Adjournment
6.5 At every meeting, each AA Group shall be entitled to one (1) vote. The Parliamentarian shall monitor and validate all voting and shall resolve any questions or disputes regarding voting authority in accordance with these By-Laws.
6.6 The Members of the Board shall relinquish their voting rights upon election to the Board except for the Chair who shall have the right to cast the decisive vote in case of a TIE VOTE ONLY. Because of this the affected group should ensure it has a vote at all meetings. Directors may introduce business and make motions.
6.7 Any AA member can participate in discussion. Only Representatives and Standing Committee Chairs may introduce business, make motions and vote. The provisions of Sections 3.2, 3.3, 6.6 and 7.2 apply.
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### 6.8 OVERRULING THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

6.8.1 In the event the Board elects to refer any action taken by the membership to the full Board of Directors for consideration, this referral shall be recorded in the minutes of the membership meeting. The matter must be considered by the Board of Directors prior to the next meeting of the membership and its decision announced at that meeting
6.8.2 If a referral is noted as outlined in Section 6.8.1, the membership may, upon simple majority vote, elect to recess the membership meeting and instruct the Board of Directors to meet and consider the matter forthwith.
6.8.2.1 If a quorum of the Board of Directors is present as provided by Section 5.7.2, they shall immediately convene and consider the question and report its decision to the membership.
6.8.2.2 If a quorum is not present, the Chair will advise the membership that a meeting cannot be held due to the lack of a quorum.
6.8.2.3 The membership may, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, instruct the Board to convene by use of the proxy votes recorded with the Parliamentarian under the provisions of Section 5.7.2.1.
6.8.3 If the Board of Directors votes to overrule the membership, the decision will be announced to the membership with an explanation.
6.8.4 The membership may overrule a decision of the Board by a two thirds $(2 / 3)$ majority vote.

# ARTICLE 7 <br> COMMITTEES 

### 7.1 Section 5.5 .1 shall apply.

### 7.2 STANDING COMMITTEES

7.2.1 The Standing Committee Chairs shall serve for a period of one (1) year from May 1st through April 30th. Chairs should have a minimum of one (1) year continuous sobriety. They shall consist of the following:
A. Telephone
B. Where \&When
C. Corrections and Treatments(C\&T)
D. Public Information/Cooperating with the Professional Community(PI/CPC)
E. Finance
F. Bookstall
G.SMIA Website
H. Lifeline

### 7.3 DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEES

7.3.1 TELEPHONE -The Committee shall be responsible for, but not limited to, maintaining a current 12th Step telephone listing and meeting list (including changes) at the Answering Service Office. The monthly report should reflect the general areas from which calls were received. AA Guidelines MG-12 apply.
7.3.2 WHERE \& WHEN- The Committee shall be responsible to collect and maintain information on group changes and prepare and publish revised meeting list when decided by vote of the membership. SMIA Publishing Guidelines are germane.
7.3.3 CORRECTIONS AND TREATMENT (C\&T) - In the absence of a SMIA C\&T chair each county may, if they wish, send a representative to request support from the Intergroup for their C\&T activities. ARTICLE VI, Section 6.7 are germane for voting purposes. AA Guidelines MG-06 Corrections Committees and MG-14 Treatment Facilities Committees apply.

### 7.3.4 PUBLIC INFORMATION/COOPERATING WITH THE PROFESSIONAL

 COMMUNITY (PI/CPC)- In the absence of a SMIA PI/CPC chair each county may, if they wish, send a representative to request support from the Intergroup for their PI/CPC activities. ARTICLE VI, Section 6.7 germane for voting purposes. AA guidelines MG-07 Public Information and MG-11 Cooperation with the Professional Community apply.Published by Bill L. Leftwich, December 22, 2023
7.3.5 FINANCE - The Treasurer shall serve as the Chair of the Finance Committee which shall consist of three (3) members, two (2) of whom shall not be current officers of the Corporation. This Committee shall have the authority to incur any essential immediate expenditure not to exceed Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00). All such expenditures shall be reported to the membership at the next meeting.
7.3.6 BOOKSTALL - The Committee shall be responsible for the overall operation of the Bookstall in a profitable manner. ONLY AA Conference-approved material will be ordered and sold, with the exception of Grapevine materials and anniversary medallions (Chips). The Treasurer shall reimburse the Bookstall from the budget(s) of the Committee(s)requiring materials. Profits after operating expenses shall be transferred to the General Fund.
7.3.7 LIFELINE -The Editor shall collect and prepare information for the publication of the newsletter and ensure adequate copies are available at the monthly meeting. SMIA Publishing Guidelines are germane.
7.3.8 SMIA Web Site -The Committee shall be responsible for the overall operation of the SMIA Web Site. The Committee will be responsible for material displayed on the Web Site and thelegality thereof. The Treasurer shall reimburse the Committee for operating costs incurred, not to exceed $\$ 150.00$ per month. SMIA Publishing Guidelines are germane.

### 7.4 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

7.4.1 The Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the Chair at the regular meeting of the membership during the month of January. The Committee shall consist of at least three (3) members, one (1) each from Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's Counties.
7.4.2 At the regular February membership meeting, the Committee will submit specific nominations for the offices of:
A. Chair
B. Vice Chair
C. Treasurer
D. Secretary
E. Parliamentarian
7.4.3 The nominations shall comply with the provisions of ARTICLE 5 of these ByLaws.

### 7.5 SPECIAL COMMITTEES

7.5.1 The Serenity Breakfast, Picnic and Gratitude Dinner Committee Chairs are appointed each year.
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ARTICLE 8<br>FISCAL POLICY

8.1 ALL CONTRIBUTIONS of money, goods and/or services shall be accepted in strict adherence to the principle that we are self-supporting. No contributions shall be accepted without the unanimous approval of the Finance Committee. The provisions of section 4.4 apply.
8.2 The budget for the Corporation shall be adopted annually at the May meeting of the membership. The Treasurer and the Finance Committee shall prepare a budget proposal for consideration and discussion at the April meeting. In election years, both the newly elected and the outgoing Treasurers shall participate. The fiscal year shall be from May 1st to April 30th.
8.3 All motions brought before the membership requiring funds will include an estimate of cost. The Treasurer shall report on the status of the budget before discussion takes place. This report shall include recommendations for budget revisions if adjustments are required.
8.4 The regular checking and savings accounts shall bear the signatures of the Treasurer, Chair and Vice Chair. Two (2) signatures shall be required to disburse funds. The special accounts shall also bear three (3) signatures, two (2) of which shall be required to disburse funds. One signature disbursing funds must be that of a Board Member. Electronic disbursement of funds require the Chair and/or Vice Chair approval via email which must be maintained for audit purposes.
8.5 The Prudent Reserve is defined as funds required to support activities for a period of three (3) months should no income from any source is received. Additional funds may be set-aside in savings to support special projects or planned purchases of high cost equipment approved by the membership.
8.6 With the exception of the purchase of large equipment items, the budget should be balanced and provide for some funds being added to the Prudent Reserve each year.
8.7 In the event that SMIA funds are greater than the Prudent Reserve, and there are no special projects or planned equipment purchases requiring savings, all funds in excess of the Prudent Reserve shall be sent monthly to World Services and Maryland General Services on a 60/40 percent basis after a vote of the membership.
8.8 The Board of Directors shall ensure that the General Fund be audited annually and whenever the Treasurer leaves their position. Should any Special Event(s) account be set up, they shall be audited upon completion of the event.
8.9 In the event SMIA dissolves, the funds are to be dispersed to AA World Services and Maryland General Services on a 60/40 basis.

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## ARTICLE 9 <br> ADMENDMENTS I

9.1 The provisions of Section 4.5 apply.
9.2 Any duly elected Intergroup Representative may introduce an amendment. It must first be introduced at a regular meeting of the membership. After all discussion has been heard, the question of voting on the amendment shall be called. Majority rule shall prevail. If the vote approves submission of the amendment, the proposed amendment shall be referred to the Directors for formal wording. The formal amendment shall be prepared in time for the next meeting of the membership (or sooner if the Directors so desire). The Secretary shall read the formal amendment to the membership. Such reading shall take place at two (2) consecutive normally scheduled meetings of the membership. (The first reading may be at the meeting where the matter was first introduced.) Immediately following the second reading of the amendment, it shall be voted upon by the membership. A two thirds $(2 / 3)$ majority of all members present shall be necessary to approve the amendment. If it is approved by the membership, it shall be submitted to the Board of Directors.
9.3 The Board of Directors shall approve or disapprove all amendments, additions and deletions to the By-laws. The Board shall have a period of thirty (30) days to act upon any change. Failure of the Board to formally act on an amendment shall constitute approval. A majority vote by the Board shall be sufficient to approve or reject an amendment.
9.4 The Board of Directors shall make their decision known to the membership at the next regular meeting of the membership.
9.5 Adverse decisions of the board of Directors may be overruled using the provisions of Section 6.8 of these By-Laws.

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## ARTICLE 10 <br> ADMENDMENTS II

10.1 These By-Laws shall become effective upon adoption and shall remain in full force and affect until such time as they are either amended, revised or repealed as set forth in ARTICLE 9.
10.2 Nothing in these By-Laws shall be construed as interfering with the autonomy, the internal business, policies or organization of any of the local groups forming the Corporation.
10.3 Upon adoption, these By-Laws shall supersede and replace all previous By-Laws.

## ARTICLE 11

## Amendment III

11.1 It is imperative that all business conducted by the SMIA and the committees that service SMIA responsibilities as outlined in Article 7 of these By-Laws, is done so with minimal disruption, interference, or conflict.
11.2 There will be natural disagreements during discussions of SMIA business. This is understood, and when those discussions reach a point of disorder as perceived by the SMIA Parliamentarian, the Parliamentarian will intervene in accordance with Article 5, Section 5, and Sub-section 5 of these By-Laws.
11.3 When a member becomes so disruptive that the meeting cannot continue, and the member will not adhere to the Parliamentarian's request to restore order, that member will be asked to leave the meeting.
11.4 If this behavior is repeated by the same member, the SMIA Chair will contact the Program Chair or GSR for the member group and request that a new SMIA Representative be appointed for that group. If the member is not a representative of, or is not affiliated with a singular or specific group, the SMIA Chair will contact the DCM of the District where that member has provided the majority of service in relation to the SMIA
11.5 This is also applicable to all other business conducted by and provided by the SMIA including The Bookstall, The Where and When, The Lifeline, The Telephone Service, The Treasury, The Website, The Picnic, The Serenity Breakfast, The Gratitude Dinner, and Bridging the Gap. Members must not interfere with the good order of these service offerings. Interference with these service offerings will be documented and provided to the SMIA Chair and SMIA Parliamentarian. The member will be asked not to interfere and if they refuse, they will be excluded from conducting business with any of those committees.
11.6 The SMIA Chair must provide documented examples of the member's unruly behavior to the group or district

## ARTICLE 13

Amendment V

12.1 In March 2020, the SMIA was confronted with the COVID-19 Pandemic. This resulted in several business challenges that transcended into the following year, 2021. When the nominations for Vice-Chair and Treasurer were due in February 2021, there were no available nominees, thus the Board and Membership unanimously voted to extend the terms of both Board positions to August 2021. In August 2021, we still had no nominees. We again voted unanimously to extend those positions until the next election cycle; April 2022. Additionally, and for the purpose of maintain continuity, we unanimously voted to extend the Chair and Secretary positions to April 2023. The Parliamentarian position remained in alignment with EVEN NUMBERED years.
12.2 The revisions pursuant to this Amendment were made to Article 5, Section 3.

## ARTICLE 12

## Amendment IV

7.3.5 FINANCE - The Treasurer shall serve as the Chair of the Finance Committee which shall consist of three(3) members, two (2) of whom shall not be current officers of the Corporation, and which shall be convened to perform general SMIA functions in accordance with Article 8, Fiscal Policy, Section 8.8 of these By-laws. The Treasurer shall have the authority to incur any essential immediate expenditure not to exceed Five Hundred Dollars ( $\$ 500.00$ ). All such expenditures shall be reported to the membership at the next meeting.
8.7 All funds in excess of the Prudent Reserve and funds required for special projects, annual events or planned equipment purchases shall be sent bi-annually to World Services and Maryland General Services on a 60/40 percent basis after a vote of the membership at the April and October SMIA meetings, which coincides with the beginning and mid-year mark of the organization's Fiscal Year.

### 7.5 SPECIAL COMMITTEES

7.5.1 The Serenity Breakfast, Picnics, Workshop, Social Event and Gratitude Dinner Committee Chairs are appointed each year.

### 7.5 SPECIAL COMMITTEES

7.5.1 Special projects and annual events include, but are not limited to, Serenity Breakfast, Gratitude Dinner, Workshops and Social Events. Subject to adequate funding and volunteers, committees to coordinate these events will be formed on an ad hoc basis.

Bill Leftwich<br>Publisher<br>Carlton Ford<br>Chairperson<br>Katherine Lucas<br>Vice-Chair<br>Kristi Pearson<br>Secretary<br>Rebecca Bohn<br>Treasurer<br>Rob Andrews<br>Parliamentarian

A true copy of the approved By-Laws. Voted on and passed by the General Membership in September 2023 and approved by the Board of Directors September 2023, replacing and superseding all previous By-Laws.

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## SMIA By－Laws 2023

Final Audit Report

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