

1 **NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL GENEALOGICAL CONSORTIUM, INC.**

2
3 **BYLAWS**

4
5 **ARTICLE I - NAME**

6
7 The name of this organization shall be: NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL
8 GENEALOGICAL CONSORTIUM Inc., an association⁶ of genealogical societies
9 operating as a non-profit educational organization, hereinafter known as NERGC.
10

11 **ARTICLE II - OBJECTIVES**

12
13 The objectives of NERGC² shall be:

- 14 1. To promote an interest in genealogy,
- 15 2. To promote skills and a level of expertise of genealogists through sponsorship of
16 educational conferences and other periodic educational activities as the Board may
17 determine,
- 18 3. To promote harmony and cooperation among genealogical societies,
- 19 4. To promote adherence to accepted standards for the use and care of genealogical
20 records.

21
22 **ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP¹⁰.**

23
24 Section A: Sustaining Members²

25 Sustaining Members are those member societies who have participated
26 in at least the last four (4) conferences of NERGC² and are participating
27 in the present conference planning. These societies have abided by
28 NERGC² guidelines for conference participation. They shall become
29 Sustaining Members after the member society's Board of Directors
30 approves the status.

31 Section B: Governmental Affiliates

32 Governmental Affiliates are those Federal, State or Local entities which
33 cannot absorb a loss. A Governmental Affiliate's participation agreement
34 shall exclude the loss and withdrawal clauses of the participation
35 agreement and may have other adjustments as approved by the
36 delegates.

37 Section C: Associate Members

38 Associate members are those societies who are participating in the
39 present conference and are not Sustaining, Governmental Affiliate, or
40 Repository Members.¹

41 Section D: Repository Members¹⁰

42 Repository members have a role in the Conference, e.g. supplying speakers, but
43 do not have a membership from which volunteer work can be drawn. A
44 Repository Member’s participation agreement shall exclude the loss and
45 withdrawal clauses and may have other adjustments as approved by the delegates.

46
47 **ARTICLE IV – MEETINGS**

48
49 Section A: Meetings

50 There shall be an annual meeting of the Members in June of each
51 year. Additional meetings shall be determined by the Board.

52 Section B: Electronic Communication¹⁰

53 Notification of all meetings may be communicated electronically, and meetings
54 may be held in person or by electronic or hybrid means at the discretion of the
55 Board.

56 Section C: Special Meetings

57 Special meetings of the New England Regional Genealogical Consortium may be
58 called by the president, the Board of Directors, or upon written request (which
59 may be communicated electronically) of ten (10) member societies. The notice
60 shall state the purpose of the special meeting and shall be communicated to all
61 members at least ten (10) days prior to said meeting. No business other than that
62 stated in the call to the special meeting shall be conducted.

63 Section D: Quorum

64 Representatives from twelve (12)¹ Member Societies shall constitute a quorum.

65
66 **ARTICLE V- OFFICERS**

67
68 Section A:

69 The officers of NERGC² shall be: President, Vice President, Secretary and
70 Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer.^{4 10}

71 Section B: Election of Officers

72 Officers shall be elected at the annual meeting as follows:

- 73 1. President and Treasurer to be elected in odd numbered
74 years.
- 75 2. Vice President, Secretary and Assistant Treasurer^{4 10} to be
76 elected in even numbered years.

77 Section C: Term of Office

- 78 1. The above named officers shall be elected for two year terms, to
79 take office at the close of the annual meeting in the year in which
80 elected. None of the above named officers may serve more than two
81 consecutive terms (four years) in any one office, and no individual
82 may serve in the above named offices for more than six (6)
83 consecutive years.¹⁰
- 84 2. An officer may be suspended or removed by a vote of a majority of
85 directors then in office at any meeting duly called. An officer may
86 resign by delivering a letter of resignation to the president or secretary
87 of the Organization, to a meeting of the members, or to the
88 Organization at its principal office. Such resignation shall be effective
89 upon receipt unless the letter otherwise so states.

90 Section D¹⁰

91 Board members included named officers are expected to attend a minimum of
92 three-fourths of scheduled meetings of the Board of Directors during their term of
93 office.

94 Section E: Duties of the Officers

95 1. President

96 The president shall be the chief executive officer of NERGC and,
97 subject to the control of the directors, shall have general charge and
98 supervision of the affairs of NERGC². The president shall preside at all
99 meetings of the members and at all meetings of the directors. The
100 president shall denote additional duties of the officers as needed and
101 may appoint committees as the president deems appropriate. The
102 president may not delegate any powers of the directors **without** the
103 consent of the directors.

104 2. Vice-President

105 The vice-president shall have such duties and powers as the directors or
106 the President may determine. The vice-president shall have and may
107 exercise all the powers and duties of the president during the absence of
108 the president or in the event of the president's inability to act.

109 3. Treasurer

110 The treasurer shall be the chief financial officer and the chief
111 accounting officer of NERGC². The treasurer shall be in charge of the
112 Organization's financial affairs, funds, securities and valuable papers
113 and shall keep full and accurate records thereof. The treasurer shall
114 have such other duties and powers as designated by the directors or the
115 president. The treasurer shall also be in charge of NERGC²'s books of
116 account, accounting records and of its accounting procedures. The

117 activity of the treasurer shall be subject to audit at least once each
118 conference cycle.¹⁰

119 4. Secretary

120 The secretary shall record and maintain records of all proceedings of
121 NERGC and of the Directors: keep a complete register of all members,
122 directors and officers and the address of each: send out notices and
123 agendas by mail or electronic means¹⁰ at least fourteen (14)¹⁰ days in
124 advance of a meeting and perform such other secretarial duties of
125 NERGC as designated by the directors or the president. If the secretary
126 is absent from any meeting of the members or of the directors a
127 temporary secretary chosen at the meeting shall exercise the duties of
128 the secretary at the meeting.

129 5. Assistant Treasurer^{1 10}

130 The Assistant Treasurer shall participate in the work of the Treasurer,
131 and have the duties and responsibilities of the Treasurer as the need
132 arises. The activity of the Assistant Treasurer shall be subject to audit at
133 least once each conference cycle.¹⁰

134
135 **ARTICLE VI - BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

136
137 Section A: The Board of Directors shall consist of the officers of NERGC², and three (3)
138 additional directors elected by the¹ Member Societies at the annual meeting.⁸ The
139 additional directors shall be elected to serve three (3) year terms. At the first election one
140 director each for a three (3) year, two (2) year and one (1) year term. One director shall
141 be elected in each 1 subsequent year to serve a three (3) year term. The immediate Past
142 President shall be an advisory non-voting member of the Board of Directors until the
143 next annual meeting after completion of his or her term as President.⁸

144 Section B: Any vacancy occurring on the Board of Directors with the exception of the
145 President or Past President⁵ may be filled to the end of the vacancy term by a majority
146 vote of the remaining members of the Board.

147 Section C: The Board of Directors shall transact the business of NERGC between
148 general meetings and direct committees.

149 Section D: Board members including named officers are expected to attend a minimum
150 of three-fourths of scheduled meetings of the Board of Directors during their term in
151 office.

152 Section E: Four (4) members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum
153
154

155 **ARTICLE VII - WITHDRAWAL GUIDELINES²**

156
157 Any Sustaining Member of NERGC may withdraw from NERGC up to ninety (90) days
158 after the last day of the present conference being conducted provided that the member
159 indicate in writing its intention to withdraw. It is understood that withdrawal from
160 NERGC will not include the withdrawal of seed money the Sustaining Member¹⁰ has
161 provided to NERGC for the purpose of preparing for subsequent conferences.

162
163 **ARTICLE VIII - STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

164
165 Section A: Standing Committees

166 1. The Standing Committees of NERGC shall be: the Conference
167 Planning Committee and the Nominating Committee. The
168 responsibilities of the Conference Planning Committee and the
169 Nominating Committee shall be governed by the Standing Rules.

170 2. Special committees may be appointed by the president or the board
171 as needed.

172
173 **ARTICLE IX- PERSONAL LIABILITY**

174
175 The members, directors and officers of NERGC² shall not be liable for any debt, liability
176 or obligation of the organization.

177
178 **ARTICLE X - PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

179
180 The rules contained in “Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised” in its most recent
181 revision¹⁰ shall govern¹ NERGC in all cases in which they are applicable, and which are
182 not inconsistent with these Bylaws and any Standing Rules.

183
184
185 **ARTICLE XI - DISSOLUTION OF SOCIETY**

186
187 Section A: If the Board of Directors concludes that NERGC² can no longer continue to
188 function, a special meeting of the membership shall be called. The Board shall send to all
189 members a notice of the date, time and location of the meeting and an explanation of the
190 proposed actions no later than four (4) weeks prior to the proposed meeting.

191 Section B: If dissolution is approved by at least two-thirds (2/3) of the members present
192 and voting at the above stated meeting, the Board shall make provision for the payment

193 of all debts and/or obligations of NERGC². Upon dissolution of the New England
194 Regional Genealogical Consortium, Inc. assets shall be distributed for one or more
195 exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code
196 or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the
197 federal government or a state or local government for a public purpose. Any assets not
198 disposed of shall be disposed of by the sitting of the Superior Court having jurisdiction
199 over the town in which the principal office of the organization is then located,
200 exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court
201 shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.⁷

202 203 **ARTICLE XII-AMENDMENTS¹**

204
205 Section A: These Bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the Organization by
206 a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present provided that the amendment(s) has been
207 submitted in writing by any delegate to the Board of Directors and the delegates at a
208 prior membership meeting, and sent to all members at least thirty (30) days prior to the
209 proposed vote on the amendment(s).

210 Section B: Standing Rules. The Standing Rules shall be amended by a majority vote of
211 the Board of Directors and delegates when given advance written notice of 30 days.⁴

212 A roll call vote by society may be requested on any issue brought before the
213 delegates. Only Member Societies participating in the present conference cycle shall vote
214 on issues directly relating to that conference. All societies shall vote on NERGC
215 organizational issues.⁵

216 **APPENDIX¹⁰**

217 Section A: Charter Members

218 1. The Charter Members of NERGC² are:

219 Acadian Cultural Society, American Canadian Genealogical Society, Inc.,
220 American-French Genealogical Society, American Portuguese
221 Genealogical and Historical Society, Inc., Cape Cod Genealogical
222 Society, Central Massachusetts Genealogical Society, Connecticut
223 Ancestry Society, Inc., Connecticut Society of Genealogists, Inc., Essex
224 Society of Genealogists, Inc., Falmouth Genealogical Society, Inc.,
225 Federation of Genealogical Societies, Inc., French Canadian Genealogical
226 Society of Connecticut, Genealogical Roundtable, Genealogical Society
227 of Vermont, Higgins Armory Museum, Maine Genealogical Society,
228 Massachusetts Genealogical Council, Massachusetts Society of
229 Genealogists, Inc., New England Historic Genealogical Society, New
230 Hampshire Society of Genealogists, Plymouth County Genealogists, Inc.,
231 Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut, Inc., Rhode Island
232 Genealogical Society, Inc., South Shore Genealogical Society, TIARA -
233 The Irish Ancestral Research Association, Inc.

234
235
236
237
238
239
240
241
242
243
244
245
246
247
248
249
250
251
252
253
254
255
256
257
258
259
260
261
262
263
264
265
266
267
268
269
270

STANDING RULES:

ARTICLE I REPRESENTATION AT MEETINGS OF NERGC

- A. On all matters brought before NERGC² each participating society shall have one (1) vote.
- B. Each participating society shall designate two (2) delegates empowered to cast the society's vote. Delegates are encouraged to attend all announced meetings. The Board of Directors recommends that one of the delegates from each society be designated to serve for one full conference cycle (2 years).

ARTICLE II STANDING COMMITTEES

- A. Nominating Committee
 - 1. The Nominating Committee shall consist of three (3) members elected at the Annual Meeting to propose a slate of officers at the next annual meeting in accordance with the Bylaws Article V, Section B; Section C, 1 and Article VI, Section A.
- B. Conference Planning Committee⁹
 - 1. The Conference Planning Committee shall consist of Conference Chairpersons¹⁰ and the following conference committees:
 - Program (speakers); Publicity; Brochure - design, printing, distribution; Registration; Vendors; Syllabus; Syllabus Advertising; and such other sub-committees as may be necessary
 - 2. The Conference Planning Committee Chairperson(s) shall be elected at the last Delegates meeting before the conference two years prior to the conference for which they are being elected.
 - 3. Conference Chairpersons shall report their activities to the Board of Directors. Decisions with substantial financial impact upon the organization (e.g. pricing and compensation) shall be approved by the Board before implementation.¹⁰
 - 4. Conference subcommittees shall report to the conference chairs.¹⁰
 - 5. Seed Money²
 - Section A: All Sustaining Members¹⁰ will retain in NERGC's bank account, on deposit, funds for the planning of the next conference and the payment of associated expenses approved by the Board of Directors. That amount will be determined by the Board of Directors and voted upon by the delegates of NERGC. Associate members will pay the required conference participation fee for

271 NERGC's next conference when they have signed their respective
272 participation agreement.⁴

273 Section B:⁴ Administrative Costs of NERGC include fixed
274 operational items such as insurance, postage, bonding of the
275 Treasurer and Assistant to the Treasurer, any Awards and other
276 administrative items. The administrative costs will be assessed as
277 part of the participation fee.

278 ARTICLE III: PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT⁴

279 The Board of Directors shall approve a Participation Agreement prepared by the
280 Conference Chairperson(s) for each conference. Such agreement shall be presented to
281 the delegates for explanation and will be ready for each organization's approval so that
282 signed agreements can be returned by the indicated deadline for participation in the next
283 conference.¹⁰

284 The Participation Agreement shall include language which shall define timely
285 settlement between NERGC and the PARTICIPATING SOCIETY on costs, gains or
286 losses, of the conference.

287

288

289 Revisions:

290 ^{1.} Changes adopted on 30 June 2001.

291 ^{2.} Changes adopted May 31, 2003.

292 ^{3.} Change adopted October 2, 2004.

293 ^{4.} Changes adopted June 25, 2005.

294 ^{5.} Changes adopted April 8, 2006.

295 ^{6.} Change adopted December 3, 2005.

296 ^{7.} Change adopted October 3, 2009.

297 ^{8.} Changes adopted June 22, 2013.

298 ^{9.} Changes adopted October 3, 2015.

299 ^{10.} Changes adopted June 29, 2024.

300