

THE BYLAWS OF THE CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF CRIMINALISTS

As Amended – April 17, 2024

ARTICLE I Purposes

The objects and purposes of this Corporation shall be to:

SECTION 1: Foster an exchange of ideas and information within the field of criminalistics.

SECTION 2: Foster friendship and cooperation among the various laboratory personnel.

SECTION 3: Encourage and, if possible, financially support worthy research projects.

SECTION 4: Encourage the compilation of experience data of value in the field.

SECTION 5: Promote wide recognition of the practice of criminalistics as an important phase of jurisprudence.

SECTION 6: Promote a high level of professional competence among criminalists.

SECTION 7: Encourage uniform qualifications and requirements for criminalists and related specialists.

SECTION 8: Disseminate information to the law profession concerning minimum qualifications for physical evidence consultants.

SECTION 9: Provide a board of review in cases involving differences of professional opinion when requested.

SECTION 10: Encourage the use of improved testing procedures and methods of presentation of conclusions.

SECTION 11: Encourage the recognition of this Association and its purposes among other appropriate groups and societies.

SECTION 12: Lend assistance, whenever possible, in the formulation of college curricula and law enforcement programs.

SECTION 13: When appropriate, to review and act upon any pending legislation which appears to be related to the field of criminalistics.

SECTION 14: Establish, maintain, and enforce a code of ethics for criminalists.

SECTION 15: Establish, maintain and manage an Endowment Fund to fund scholarships, research projects, special classes and other activities in keeping with the objects and purposes of this Corporation.

A. Endowment Fund principal, income or other assets will not be used to offset CAC expenses, routine or extraordinary.

B. Endowment Fund principal will not be used for any purpose.

SECTION 16: Support certification testing programs for individuals engaged in the practice of criminalistics.

ARTICLE II Members

SECTION 1: Application to this Corporation shall be limited to persons who meet the following general qualifications:

- A. Associate Members: Are presently employed as scientists professionally engaged in one or more fields directly related to the forensic sciences AND have demonstrated ability to conduct work requiring college level education in appropriate physico-chemical or biological sciences.
- B. Affiliate Members: Are college-level students pursuing a course of study toward a career in a forensic science, OR persons who have earned a Baccalaureate degree in a physical or a biological science and are actively seeking employment in forensic science, OR interns, volunteers, laboratory technicians, crime scene technicians, digital evidence technicians, and impression evidence technicians employed in a forensic science laboratory.

SECTION 2: There shall be six classes of membership in the Corporation:

A. Affiliate Member:

- 1. Any person meeting the general qualifications as stated in Article II Section 1B
- 2. Recommended in writing by one (1) Life, Full, Retired or Associate Member of the Corporation
- 3. Elected an Affiliate Member by the Board of Directors
- 4. An Affiliate Member may not vote, hold office, or serve as a committee chair or member.
- 5. An Affiliate Member shall be subject to those dues, assessments, and registration fees as the Board of Directors may set for Affiliate Members.
- 6. An Affiliate Member who meets the criteria for Associate Membership must apply for an upgrade within six months of employment.

B. Associate Member:

- 1. Any person meeting the general qualifications as stated in Article II Section 1A
- 2. Recommended in writing by two (2) Life, Full, Retired or Associate Members of the Corporation, such that at least one letter of recommendation shall be from a Life, Retired or Full Member

3. Elected an Associate Member by three-fourths of the members present and eligible to vote at a regular business meeting of the Corporation
4. An Associate Member may vote in person or by proxy if proxy is exercised by any Associate, Full, or Life Member, and may serve as a committee member of any committee except the Ethics Committee. An Associate Member may not hold office and may not serve as a committee chair.
5. An Associate Member shall be subject to those dues, assessments, and registration fees as the Board of Directors may set for members.
6. Any person previously classified as a Provisional Member

C. Corresponding Member:

1. Any person who was a Corresponding Member of the predecessor unincorporated California Association of Criminalists or who had been designated as Corresponding Member at the time this provision was adopted
2. A Corresponding Member may serve as a committee member of any committee except the Ethics Committee. A Corresponding Member may not vote, may not hold office, and may not serve as a committee chair.
3. A Corresponding Member shall be subject to those dues, assessments, and registration fees as the Board of Directors may set for members.

D. Full Member:

1. Any person who was a Full Member of the predecessor unincorporated California Association of Criminalists or those who had been elected Full Member
2. Is presently employed as a scientist professionally engaged in one or more fields directly related to the forensic sciences AND has demonstrated ability to conduct work requiring college level education in appropriate physico-chemical or biological sciences
3. Any Associate Member of one or more year's membership or Corresponding Member who shall meet the requirements set forth in Article II Section 3B
4. Elected a Full Member by three-fourths of the members present and eligible to vote at a regular business meeting of the Corporation
5. A Full Member may vote in person or by proxy if proxy is exercised by any Associate, Full, or Life Member. A Full Member may hold office, may serve as a committee chair, and may serve as a committee member.
6. A Full Member shall be subject to those dues, assessments, and registration fees as the Board of Directors may set for members.

E. Life Member:

1. Any person who was a Life Member of the predecessor unincorporated California Association of Criminalists or who had been elected Life Member
2. Any Full Member who has an exemplary record of service to the California Association of Criminalists and the field of criminalistics and who has been elected a Life Member by three-fourths of the Board of Directors

3. A Life Member may vote in person or by proxy if proxy is exercised by any Associate, Full, or Life Member. A Life Member may hold office, may serve as a committee chair, and may serve as a committee member.
4. A Life Member shall be excused from those dues, assessments, and registration fees as the Board of Directors may set for members.

F. Retired Member:

1. Any Full, Associate, or Corresponding Member with five years membership in the Corporation who has retired from employment in forensic science or attained the age of 65 years or both
2. Has applied to the Board of Directors for reclassification and has been elected by a majority vote of the Board of Directors
3. A Retired Member may serve as a committee member of any committee except the Ethics Committee. A Retired member may not vote, hold office, or serve as a committee chair.
4. A Retired member shall be subject to those dues, assessments, and registration fees as the Board of Directors may from time to time set for Retired Members.

SECTION 3: Change in Membership Classification

- A. It shall be the function of the Board of Directors to propose the acceptance of new Associate members or the advancement of Associate or Corresponding Members to Full Members. Proposals for change in the class of membership of a member shall be based upon consideration of the member's efforts and attainments in the field of forensic science, attendance at seminars, and participation in the activities of the Corporation.
- B. Associate Members (classified as such for not less than one year) or Corresponding Members shall complete one of the following requirements to be eligible for consideration for Full Member classification:
 1. During two consecutive years or less, obtain at least six points OR during three consecutive years or less obtain nine points from the list below:
 2. Points are awarded as follows:
 - a. CAC Workshop or Seminar attendance: 1 pt./day
 - b. CAC Study Group attendance: 1 pt./day
 - c. Active participation on a CAC Committee: 2 pts. (as determined by the Committee Chairperson)
 - d. Active participation as a CAC Study Group Chairperson: 2 pts. (as determined by the Regional Director)
 - e. Presentation on a forensic topic at a CAC Seminar/Workshop/Study Group: 3 pts.
 - f. Publication in a peer-reviewed journal: 3 pts.
 - g. Publication of an article (forensic topic) in the CACNews: 1 pt.
 - h. Other CAC related activity: Pts. (as determined by CAC Board of Directors)

SECTION 4: A membership is not transferable or assignable.

SECTION 5: Termination of Membership

A. Termination upon Request of Member:

1. A member may terminate membership in the Corporation by written request directed to the Board of Directors of the Corporation. The Board of Directors shall inform the membership of the Corporation of such termination at the next regular business meeting.

B. Termination upon Request while Charges Pending:

1. Any member who resigns while charges of violation of the Code of Ethics are pending against that member shall be excluded from future membership unless such membership is approved by a vote of three-fourths of the Board of Directors.

C. Termination for Failure to Pay Dues:

1. Membership may be automatically terminated upon failure of a member to pay dues or assessments as set by the Board of Directors.

D. Termination for Cause:

1. A member may be suspended or expelled from the Corporation for unethical conduct, conduct detrimental to the profession of criminalistics or conduct detrimental to the welfare of the Corporation. Any member or non-member of the Corporation may initiate proceedings to discipline a member of the Corporation.
2. Claims of unethical conduct on the part of any member shall be directed to the President and shall be decided by the Board of Directors after investigation by the Ethics Committee.
3. The Ethics Committee shall be a standing committee of three Full or Life Members appointed by the President. Each member shall serve a three-year term and the term shall be staggered.
4. If any member of the Ethics Committee works in the same laboratory as a member accused of an ethical violation or for any reason desires not to participate in the investigation of an accused member, the President shall appoint a replacement member of the Ethics Committee. Such replacement shall serve only for that particular investigation from which the regular member withdraws, and the regular member shall continue to serve on the Ethics Committee for all other committee business.
5. When the Board of Directors determines that an ethical violation has occurred, the accused member may appeal the decision of the Board of Directors to the general membership.
6. The Board of Directors shall maintain an Ethics Enforcement Procedure for the allegation, investigation, hearing, and appeal of charges of unethical conduct by any member and the sanctions to be imposed should violations of the Code of Ethics be found to have occurred.

E. Termination Following Conviction:

1. A member may be expelled from the Corporation following conviction of a criminal offense. Criminal offense for the purpose of this section shall be any offense the maximum penalty for which shall include incarceration for any period. Such expulsion would follow

- official verification of the conviction, and a three-fourths vote of the members present and eligible to vote at a regular meeting of the Association.
2. It shall be the responsibility of the member to notify the president in writing within 30 days of any conviction of a criminal offense.
 3. In event of a successful appeal of the underlying conviction of a criminal offense, the member may apply for reinstatement of membership by a three-fourths vote of the members present and eligible to vote at a regular meeting of the Association.

F. Termination for Lack of Participation:

1. Any member may be expelled for demonstrated lack of participation in or support of the Corporation. Expulsion will follow a three-fourths vote of the members present and eligible to vote at a regular business meeting.

G. Termination of Affiliates:

1. Affiliate Members who are students but who fail to furnish required proof of student status or who are no longer pursuing a career in forensic science can be automatically terminated from membership in the Corporation.

SECTION 6: Member Reinstatement

- A. A Full or Retired member who had their membership terminated for a failure to pay dues may submit a written request to the Board of Directors for reinstatement to the last level of membership occupied, should the reason for the membership lapse be due to unforeseen circumstances (such as, but not limited to, prolonged illness).
- B. The request must be made no more than 18 months past the member suspension date and dues for the year(s) for which the reinstatement will occur will be due immediately upon reinstatement. Member suspension date is defined as the date the member's name is announced as terminated in the regular meeting of the membership minutes.
- C. Reinstatement is subject to approval by three-fourths of the Board of Directors.
- D. Affiliate and Associate members may not apply for reinstatement and must instead reapply for membership to the Association.

SECTION 7: The Board of Directors may determine from time to time the amount, time, and manner of payment of dues and/or assessments, if any, payable to the Corporation by members of each class of membership.

SECTION 8: All rights and privileges of membership in the Corporation shall be granted to all classes of membership except as specifically provided for in these Bylaws. When used herein, all references to the word "member" shall imply any membership category.

ARTICLE III Meeting of the Members

SECTION 1: All meetings of the membership, except as herein otherwise provided, shall be held as directed by the Corporation or by the Board of Directors of said Corporation.

SECTION 2: Regular meeting(s) of the members:

- A. The regular meeting(s) of the membership shall be held at least once per year.
- B. The Board of Directors may vary the time and place of the regular meeting(s) of the membership so long as at least one regularly noticed meeting is held during any particular year and that the regular meeting is held less than 15 months after the previous regular meeting in accordance with the California Corporations Code.
- C. The proposals for acceptance of new Associate members or advancement of existing Associate and Corresponding members shall be voted on by the membership as soon as practicable at a regular business meeting.

SECTION 3: Notice of the regular meeting of the membership shall be given by the Recording Secretary in writing to the members entitled to vote by sending a copy of the notice through the mail, charges prepaid, to the address of each member as the same appears on the records of the Corporation, or as supplied by a member for the purpose of notice or by electronic transmission by the Corporation in accordance with the provisions of Section 20 of the California Corporations Code, not less than 30 days before such meeting. The notice shall include the following information:

- A. The date, time and place of the meeting.
- B. The names of proposed new members and names of members being proposed for elevation to the class of Full Member or Life Member.
- C. The agenda of the meeting specifying any items of business to be conducted which will require a vote of the general membership of the Corporation.

SECTION 4: Special meetings of the membership may be called at any time for any lawful purpose by:

- A. The President or any two other members of the Board of Directors.
- B. By 5% or more of the members of the Association entitled to vote.

SECTION 5: Notice of special meetings of the membership, stating the item, and in general terms the purpose or purposes thereof, shall be given by the Recording Secretary in writing to the members entitled to vote by sending a copy of the notice through the mail, charges prepaid, to the address of each member, as the same appears on the records of the Corporation, or as supplied by the member for the purpose of notice or by electronic transmission by the Corporation in accordance with the provisions of Section 20 of the California Corporations Code, at least 15 days prior to the date of the special meeting.

SECTION 6: If it is not legal and/or safe for a meeting of the members to be held with members physically present in person, the Board of Directors, by a three-fourths vote, may hold the regular meeting of the members by electronic transmission by and to the Corporation or by electronic video screen communication. If the meeting will be held electronically, notice of the meeting pursuant to Article III,

Section 3 or Article III, Section 5 shall include the means of electronic transmission or video screen communication,

SECTION 7: When all of the members are present at any meeting, however called or noticed, and sign a written consent thereto, or when the members present, and the members not present at such meeting, give their written consent thereto and such written consent is made part of the records of such meeting the proceedings had at such meeting are valid, irrespective of the manner in which the meeting is called, or the place where it is held.

SECTION 8: Quorum

A. A quorum at any regular meeting of the membership shall be equal to the number of members present.

B. A quorum at any special meeting of the membership shall be equal to one-tenth of the number of Associate, Full, and Life Members of the Corporation, represented either in person or by proxy.

SECTION 9: Any regular or called meeting of the membership may adjourn from day-to-day, or from time-to-time without further notice, if for any reason there not be present a quorum to transact business, in person or by proxy, such adjournment and the reasons therefore being recorded in the journal of the proceedings of the members and when a quorum shall attend, any business may be transacted which might have been transacted at any meeting had the same been held on the day on which the same was originally appointed or called.

SECTION 10: The President, or, in the President's absence, the President-Elect, or, in the absence of the President and President-Elect, a Chairman, elected by the members present, shall call the meetings of the members to order, and shall act as the presiding officer thereof.

SECTION 11: The Recording Secretary shall act as Recording Secretary of all meetings of the members. In the absence of the Recording Secretary, the presiding officer may appoint any person as Acting Recording Secretary.

SECTION 12: At the first regular annual meeting of the members each year, the members entitled to vote shall elect a Board of Directors as constituted by these Bylaws and the Articles of Incorporation of the Corporation.

SECTION 13: All proxies must be in writing or submitted electronically, dated and executed by the eligible member themselves or by their duly authorized attorneys, and must be filed with the Recording Secretary at or before the meeting of the members.

SECTION 14: At any meeting in which the number of voting members present, in person or by proxy, is less than one third of the number of voting members of the Corporation (all Associate Members, Life Members, and Full Members), no matters requiring a general membership of the Corporation

can be voted upon, unless such matters were specifically contained in the Agenda of the meeting sent to the membership pursuant to Article III, Section 3 (B) and 3 (C).

ARTICLE IV

Directors

SECTION 1: The corporate powers, business and affairs of the Corporation shall be exercised, conducted and controlled by a Board of Directors consisting of a President, a President-Elect, an Immediate Past President, a Recording Secretary, a Treasurer, a Regional Director-North, a Regional Director-South, a Membership Secretary, an Editorial Secretary, all of whom shall be either Full Members or Life Members. All of the Directors with the exception of the President and Immediate Past President shall be elected by the membership of the Corporation for the terms of office set forth.

- A. The President-Elect shall be elected to a three year term to be served one year as President-Elect, one year as President and one year as Immediate Past President.
- B. The Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Regional Director-North, Regional Director-South, and Editorial Secretary shall be elected to two year terms.

SECTION 2: Each director shall hold office until a successor shall have been elected and qualified.

SECTION 3: Any vacancy occurring in the office of the director by reason of death, resignation, recall, or otherwise except vacancies caused by removal of the Board of Directors pursuant to the provisions of Section 310 of the Civil Code of the State of California, shall be filled as prescribed.

- A. A vacancy in the office of President will be filled by the President-Elect who will serve the remainder of the vacated term and the term to which they were elected.
- B. A vacancy in the office of President-Elect will be filled by election at the next regular meeting of the members or at any special meeting duly called for that purpose prior thereto. The President-Elect so elected shall serve the remainder of the term of President-Elect, the one year as President, and the one year term as Immediate Past President.
- C. Other vacancies in the office of director shall be filled by an appointee of the majority of the remaining directors though less than a quorum. Such director, so appointed shall hold office during the remainder of the term of that office until a successor is elected at the next appropriate annual meeting of the members.

SECTION 4: All the directors of the Corporation shall be elected by the membership of the Corporation at the annual meeting. A President-Elect shall be elected at each annual meeting. A Recording Secretary, a Regional Director-North and a Membership Secretary shall be elected at annual meetings held in even numbered years. A Treasurer, a Regional Director-South and an Editorial Secretary shall be elected at annual meetings held in odd numbered years.

SECTION 5: Immediately after the election of directors at the annual meeting of the members the directors shall meet for the purpose of organization and the transaction of other business.

SECTION 6: All meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held as directed from time to time by the Board.

SECTION 7: Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called at any time on the order of the President or on the order of two (2) or more directors.

SECTION 8: A majority of the whole number of directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and every act or decision of a majority of the directors present at a meeting at which a quorum is present, made or done when duly assembled, shall be valid as the act of the Board of Directors; but a majority of those present at the time and place of any stated or special meeting, although less than a quorum, may adjourn the same from time to time, or from day to day, without further notice, until a quorum shall attend, and when a quorum shall attend, any business may be transacted which might have been transacted at the meeting had the same been held on the day on which the same was originally appointed or called.

SECTION 9: The Board of Directors shall have full power and authority to borrow money on behalf of the Corporation, including the power and authority to borrow money from any of the members, directors, or officers of the Corporation, and otherwise to incur indebtedness on behalf of the Corporation, and to authorize the execution of promissory notes, or other evidence of indebtedness of the Corporation, and to agree to pay interest thereon to sell, convey, alienate, transfer, assign, exchange, lease, and otherwise dispose of, mortgage, pledge, hypothecate, and otherwise encumber the property real and personal, and the franchises of the Corporation to purchase, lease, and otherwise acquire property, real and personal, on behalf of the Corporation, and generally to do and perform, or cause to be done and performed, and every act which the Corporation may lawfully do and perform, provided said total indebtedness does not exceed the sum of \$50,000.00.

SECTION 10: The directors of this Corporation shall serve without compensation, except their actual expenses.

SECTION 11: Recall of a Director

- A. Any director may be recalled for nonfeasance, misfeasance, or malfeasance of office by a three-fourths vote of a constituted quorum of the membership attending a business meeting of the Corporation.
- B. Any Full Member or Life Member may initiate a recall election by presenting, at any meeting of the Board of Directors, a petition stating the reason(s) for recall signed by ten Full Members or Life Members of the Corporation and an affidavit certifying a copy of the petition was served either personally or by certified mail on the director sought to be recalled.

- C. The Board of Directors will vote to accept the affidavit of notification and the signatures on the petition. Finding a petition in order, the Board of Directors shall place the recall election on the new business agenda for the next scheduled business meeting of the Corporation.

SECTION 12: The Board shall review applications for new membership or change in membership status as presented by the Membership Secretary. Approved applications shall be dealt with as detailed in Article II. Applicants who are not approved shall be informed of the reason for denial and shall have the opportunity to appeal to the Board.

ARTICLE V President

SECTION 1: The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Corporation, shall preside at all meetings of the members and of the Board of Directors, shall have general charge of the business of the Corporation, and shall execute, with the Recording Secretary, in the name of the Corporation, all deeds, bonds, contracts, and other obligation and instruments authorized by the Board of Directors to be executed.

SECTION 2: The President shall also have such other powers and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VI President-Elect

SECTION 1: The President-Elect shall be vested with all the powers and shall perform all the duties of the President, in case of the absence or disability of the President.

SECTION 2: The President-Elect shall also have such other powers and shall perform such duties as may be assigned by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VII Recording Secretary

SECTION 1: The Recording Secretary shall keep a full and complete record of the proceedings of the Board of Directors and of the meetings of the members; shall keep the seal of the Corporation and affix the same to such papers and instruments as may be required in the regular course of business; shall make service of such notices as may be necessary or proper; and shall discharge such other duties as pertain to the office or as prescribed by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VIII Treasurer

SECTION 1: The Treasurer shall receive and safely keep all funds of the Corporation and deposit same in such bank or banks as may be designated by the Board of Directors. Such funds shall be paid out only on the check of the Corporation signed as directed by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 2: The Treasurer shall supervise and control the keeping of the books and accounts of the Corporation.

ARTICLE IX Regional Directors

SECTION 1: There shall be two Regional Directors. One will represent those members in the Southern part of the State, together with Southern Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. The other will represent those members in the Northern part of the State, together with Northern Nevada, and all other States except Arizona, New Mexico and Texas.

SECTION 2: Each Regional Director shall be responsible for:

- A. The assignment and direction of the regional meetings in their region.

- B. Such other duties as may be assigned by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE X Editorial Secretary

SECTION 1: The Editorial Secretary shall serve as the primary editorial liaison between the Corporation and the official journal of the Corporation, the Journal of the Forensic Science Society. The Editorial Secretary shall receive, edit and be responsible for delivery of scholarly papers to the official journal for publication.

SECTION 2: The Editorial Secretary shall edit and transmit to the official journal the Proceedings of the Seminar(s) which shall consist of the Seminar abstracts and short communications.

SECTION 3: The Editorial Secretary shall edit and publish the Newsletter of the Corporation twice per year.

ARTICLE XI Membership Secretary

SECTION 1: The Membership Secretary shall review applications for membership for completeness

- A. Verify that the application lists job duties meeting membership requirements
- B. Verify that the application lists education meeting membership requirements
- C. Verify that recommendations by qualified references have been received
- D. Correspond with applicants for additional information if necessary
- E. Present completed applications to the Board of Directors for approval

SECTION 2: The Membership Secretary shall maintain the membership files of the Association and perform related duties.

ARTICLE XII

Seal

SECTION 1: The Board of Directors shall provide a suitable seal for the Corporation, which shall be in circular form, and which shall contain the following inscription: California Association of Criminalists Incorporated 1970

ARTICLE XIII

Fiscal Year

SECTION 1: The fiscal year of the Corporation shall be from July 1 to June 30.

ARTICLE XIV

Amendments

SECTION 1: Amendments of these Bylaws, the Code of Ethics, or the Code of Ethics Enforcement Procedure may be proposed at any meeting of the Board of Directors or of the Corporation. To become effective they must receive a three-fourths vote of the members voting in person or by proxy at a meeting of the members or by the written consent of three-fourths of the members eligible to vote in person or by proxy.

SECTION 2: Members must receive notice of proposed changes not less than thirty days prior to the vote.

ARTICLE XV
Rules of Order and Procedure

SECTION 1: Meetings of the Corporation shall be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order, Revised.

SECTION 2: A parliamentarian and a sergeant at arms shall be appointed by the President (or the President-Elect or Chairman in the President's absence) at each meeting of the Corporation.

Ratified: April 17, 2024

Amended: 10/7/55, 11/20/56, 6/17/57, 11/4/60, 10/28/61, 5/23/64, 10/18/68, 2/11/72, 6/29/74,
5/12/78, 11/7/80, 5/15/81, 5/14/82, 10/20/82, 10/20/83, 5/84, 10/84, 5/85, 10/89, 5/90, 10/90, 5/94, 5/06,
10/08, 5/09, 10/10, 11/07/12, 05/22/13, 05/07/15, 9/23/15, 10/23/19, 5/28/20, 5/21/21, 4/17/24