

Bylaws of Taiwan Benevolent Association of America

Section 1: General Provisions

1. This association shall be called 全美台灣同鄉聯誼會, 全美台聯會 for short (henceforth referred to as this association). The English name shall be Taiwan Benevolent Association of America, TBAA for short.
2. This association's aims are to always care about Taiwan and to serve "Tong Xiang" in every way 「時時關心台灣，處處服務同鄉」, on one hand to contact those Taiwanese "Tong Xiang" who reside in the US to rally together and expand all services for our "Tong Xiang" and fight for the rights of ethnic Chinese in the U.S.; on the other hand to pay attention to the international political situation to care for Taiwan.
3. This association operates in the United States as a nonprofit organization headquartered in Washington D.C.

Section 2: Memberships

1. Member Organizations: Any Taiwanese "Tong Xiang" associations, formed in the U.S. for the purpose of networking, which approve of this association's objectives, respect this association's bylaws, have completed this association's entrance procedures, and are approved by the board of this association are termed Member Organizations.
2. Individual Members: Classified in the non-member organization member area, whoever approves of this association's objectives, respects this association's bylaws and voluntarily joins this association can request an application of admittance to this association, and after the board members of this association examine, verify, and pass the application the individual is termed an Individual Member.
3. This association's term of "Tong Xiang" is for those who, through the living experience in Taiwan and subsequently derived connection with one another as a basis, without regard to provincial origin, only that they were born, resided, educated, or worked in Taiwan, or depended upon a fellow citizen of Taiwan, are all equally deemed as "Tong Xiang".
4. Members have the right to attend events which are hosted by this association and have the rights and duties associated with this association. Members who pay the yearly dues have the right to vote in this association's elections and to be elected to office in this association, but those who do not pay the yearly dues do not have this privilege.
5. Each member organization shall give a copy of their bylaws and list of board members and advisors to the Secretariat of this association for reference; as a principle, such rules should not contradict this association's bylaws.
6. If a member organization or individual member fails to follow this association's bylaws or acts in a way which damages the reputation of this association, the offender will be stripped of membership privilege by a 2/3 majority vote of present board members.

Section 3: The Organization

1. **The Board:** The organization of highest authority in this association is the general assembly, and during the adjournment the association is represented by the Board. This association's Board consists of natural board members and elected board member. Natural board members include this association's President, Vice-President, and the Presidents of branch (local chapter) organizations; elected board members are nominated by the Board's quota, and the general assembly has the power to agree. Elected board members are limited to twice the number of natural board members plus three. Elected board members serve for 3 years, and every year 1/3 are reelected, those who are re-elected may be reelected. After the President serves his/her term, s/he is a natural board member for 3 years; Presidents of branch organizations have a term as natural board member equivalent to their term as President of their respective branch organizations. In order to pass new laws, the Board must have at least half of all the board members present, and the Board must convene at least once a year, convened by the President. It requires half of all board members to file a request in order for the President to call an emergency convening of the Board when needed. If a board member vacates before the term is over, the Presidents of the branch organizations can nominate a replacement which is to be confirmed by a majority vote of the present board members.
2. **The President:** This association has one President, with a term of one year and is promoted from the Vice-President. The President is the one who convenes the Board, represents this association to the world, and directs all the activities of this association.
3. **The Vice-President:** This association has one Vice-President, who has a term of one year and is nominated and elected by the Board. The Vice-President shall become the President during the next year's annual convention, and normally assists the President. When the President is unable to perform his/her duties, the Vice-President shall take over in his/her stead.
4. **The Advisory Board:** To serve this association's professional needs, anyone who is an enthusiastic supporter of the association's missions, shows passionate and excellent records on serving the needs of "Tong Xiang", and is a "Tong Xiang", scholar, or expert of outstanding merit shall be nominated and approved by the Board as an advisor. The term of office is 3 years, and this designation can be renewed at the end of the term. There is one Convener of the Advisory Board who convenes the Advisory Board with a term of 1 year. The Convener Advisor is elected from the incumbent Advisory Board members by the current Board members and Advisory Board members; this person may be elected for only 1 consecutive term.
5. **Nomination Committee:** Made up of the Convener Advisor, last President, current President and two of the Board members and Advisory Board members who are picked by the joint Advisory Board and the Board for a total of 5 people, this committee is responsible for nominating and recommending candidates to the Board.
6. **Project Committee:** Board members designated to work on project needs are authorized as Project Committee.
7. **Office of the Secretary:** This association's Office of the Secretary consists of one Secretary General and several Executive Secretaries, who are all appointed by the President, and are

confirmed by the Board. The main responsibilities are to execute, coordinate, and communicate the General Assembly's and the Board's resolutions, also to take care of day to day affairs of this association.

8. Financial Officer: This association's financial officer will be appointed by the President and confirmed by the Board. The primary responsibility of this officer shall be taking charge of all of this association's funds whether it is expenditure or revenue, and also to present to the Board yearly financial reports.
9. All positions including the President, Vice-President, Advisory Board, Secretary General, Executive Secretaries, Financial Officer, etc., are all considered voluntary, non-compensated positions.

Section 4: The Assembly

The general assembly is the highest governing body of this association; it shall convene at least once a year. The president of this association has the authority to convene an exigency session of the general assembly.

Section 5: Sources of Funds

This association's funds' sources: Yearly dues paid by members, voluntary donations and donations from other sources. The amount of the yearly dues shall be determined by the Board.

Section 6: Bylaws

This association's bylaws can be amended only through the satisfaction of one of the following two requirements:

1. Half of the board members' signatures, 2/3 majority vote of the board members present, and half majority vote of the members present at the general assembly must all ratify the amendment.
2. Half of the member organizations' signatures and 2/3 majority vote of the members present at the general assembly must ratify the amendment.

Section 7

Other items not mentioned shall be decided separately by the Board.

Section 8

This association's bylaws when passed by a 2/3 majority vote of the members present at the general assembly take effect immediately. This association's bylaws were passed on August 26, 1978 and revisions were passed on August 6, 1983, August 3, 1990, and October 26, 1994. On May 27, 2000, they were revised. On August 26, 2000, the revision was passed and enforced.