

HONORABLE ORDER OF THE BLUE GOOSE INTERNATIONAL

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

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HISTORY

The Hon. Order of the Blue Goose, International, was formed in June 1906 on the bank of the Green Lake, Green Lake County, Wisconsin, about ninety miles northwest of Milwaukee. During the annual meeting of the Wisconsin field men at the Oakwood Resort, a State Agent advanced the idea that three young men, seeking membership in the Field Club, should be initiated to enliven the occasion. One idea after another was considered which, by evening when the ceremony was scheduled, found the organizers with a name for their new Order -- Ancient and Honorable Order of the Blue Goose, also a Ritual with Obligation and Charge, and names for the various officers, almost the same as are used today.

The founders built better than they knew, for in July a petition for a charter came from Minnesota field men, which was promptly granted and the Minnesota Pond founded.

At that time it was decided to name the Wisconsin State Organization the "Wisconsin Home Nest."

The October 1906 meeting of the Fire Underwriters Association of the Northwest proved a splendid opportunity to exemplify the worth of the new social Order for field men, company officials and insurance editors. One hundred and forty-nine candidates, who had signed applications during the meeting of the Northwest Association, were made Ganders at a special Blue Goose initiation Thursday night of that week in the ballroom of the Auditorium Hotel. Elaborate plans had been made. The ceremony, conducted jointly by members of the Wisconsin Home Nest and Minnesota Pond, proved a great success, for immediately following field men of many States applied for charters, all of which were promptly granted.

From such an unpretentious beginning, the Order has grown until there is at least one Pond in almost every State and Canadian Province. This is unmistakable evidence of the fact that the "Blue Goose" occupies an important place in the insurance world, where its influence for good has been felt for many years.



CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE.

WHEREAS, in establishing the Ancient and Honorable Order of the Blue Goose, at this, the first meeting of the Federation of State Ponds, and realizing the harmful, disorganizing and destructive effects of permitting politics to enter in any manner into the administration or operation of the Order,

BE IT RESOLVED, That it is the unanimous opinion of this convention that the head and all branches of the Order should prohibit entry of politics into any of their workings and that this resolution be furnished the State Ponds as the first resolution passed in the first Congress, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the function and fundamental operations of the Order are strictly charitable and social and, as such, do not include the conduct of any business, insurance or otherwise, and that the Order demands of its membership an unqualified and absolute adherence to the Anti-Trust Laws of the United States of America, Canada, and all of the various States and Provinces thereof.

NAME.

The name of this Order shall be Honorable Order of the Blue Goose, International.

(Note: The change from the original title of the Order, Ancient and Honorable Order of the Blue Goose, was effected at the annual meeting at Montreal in 1928.)

OBJECTS.

The objects of this Order shall be promotion of charity, good fellowship and acts of benevolence among its members.

Article I Organization

(a) There shall be State and Provincial organizations, designated as "Ponds" (excepting the Wisconsin organization, which shall be known as the "Wisconsin Home Nest").

(b) There shall be a governing body, made up of the State and Provincial organizations or Ponds and known as "Grand Nest"; its officers to be elected annually by the delegates from the various State and Provincial organizations or Ponds, as hereinafter prescribed.

(c) The members of the State and Provincial organizations shall be known as "Ganders."

(d) "Puddles" may be formed by Ganders residing in a city remote from the Pond headquarters. These Ganders may band themselves together into an organization for the promotion of good fellowship, acts of benevolence among its members and furthering the interests of the Pond to which its members belong.

(e) Puddles shall have Grand Nest recognition as authorized component parts of Ponds, but shall have no voting privilege as Puddles, this privilege being exclusively for Ponds.

(f) Rules and regulations for the formation of Puddles, and the government thereof, shall be in accordance with the provisions of Articles XI and XII.

Article II Pond Charter

(a) Applications for charters for Ponds shall be made in writing to the Grand Nest and shall be signed by at least twenty-five (25) Goslings (eligible according to Article IV of the Constitution) and/or Ganders who desire to take flight, and said application shall be accompanied by a fee of ten dollars (\$10.00).

(b) No charter shall be granted where the prospective membership of a Pond is not at least fifty (50).

(c) The Charter issued to Ponds by the Grand Nest shall be drawn as follows:

**CHARTER OF THE CONSTITUTION GRANTED
BY THE GRAND NEST**

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: The Grand Nest of the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose, International, sends greetings;

KNOW YE, that we, the Grand Nest of the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose, International, do hereby authorize and empower, our trusty and Most Noble Ganders,

..... Most Loyal Gander Wielder of the Goose Quill
..... Custodian of the Goslings Supervisor of the Flock
..... Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg Guardian of the Pond

to organize and maintain a Pond designated asPond, under our jurisdiction, in the State or Province of

And we do further authorize and empower the said Ganders and their successors in office to hear and determine all matters and things relative to the welfare of the Flock, within the jurisdiction of said Pond;

And, lastly, we do hereby authorize and direct our said trusty and Most Noble Ganders to install their successors in office, after being duly elected and chosen; to invest them with all the powers and dignities to their offices respectively belonging, and to deliver them this Charter of Constitution; and such successors shall in like manner, from time to time, install their successors, and proceed as above directed; such installation to be upon, or immediately succeeding their annual meeting, during the continuance of the said Pond forever;

Provided, always, that the said above named Ganders, and their successors do pay and cause to be paid, due respect and strict obedience to the Grand Nest aforesaid, and to the

Constitution and By-Laws and Ritual and edicts thereof, otherwise this Charter to be of no force or virtue.

Given under the hand and seal of the Grand Officers of the Grand Nest at this day of, in the year

.....
Most Loyal Grand Gander

(SEAL)

.....
Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill

(d) If a Pond is desirous of changing its name it shall, by a majority vote of its membership, adopt a resolution authorizing its officers to petition the Grand Nest for such change. The Grand Nest, upon the filing of such petition, may, in its discretion, grant the same.

Article III Mandatory Ritual

There shall be a Ritual containing the mandatory portion of the sacred initiatory works of the Order, including the Obligation and Charge, prepared by a duly authorized committee and adopted by the Grand Nest. The Ritual shall also contain the authorized Memorial Service and Invocation for use at Grand Nest and Pond meetings. This complete authorized Ritual shall be the only Ritual used by the Grand Nest and all Ponds.

Article IV Membership

Any persons who have for the six months immediately preceding their date of application served in any professional position of substantial discretionary authority in one or more of the following categories, shall be eligible for membership, provided that some substantial portion of their duties relate to the business of insurance.

(a) Employees of insurance companies and of general agencies.

(b) Employees of adjusting organizations.

(c) Employees of trade associations, rating, auditing, salvage, scientific, examining, engineering, investigative, reporting, statistical and advisory boards,

bureaus and companies; service organizations, preventative and protective associations and underwriting pools.

(d) Insurance Commissioners or Superintendents, fire marshalls, and their deputies.

(e) Members of editorial staffs of publications which cover the business of insurance.

(f) Attorneys at law regularly employed by insurance companies.

(g) Employees of premium finance companies.

(h) Professors and other educators who teach courses in insurance.

(i) Accountants regularly employed by insurance companies.

(j) Licensed insurance agents and brokers.

(k) Employees of companies providing repair, restoration and/or replacement of property following an insured loss, medical rehabilitation, auditing, and structured settlement companies.

(l) Any change in occupation, if of a lawful character, shall not prevent a Gander from retaining full membership in the Order.

(m) Membership in this Order may be terminated immediately by written resignation presented to a member of the Executive Committee of the Pond with which the member is affiliated. Such resignation shall be effective from date of letter of resignation. Prompt notice of all resignations shall be mailed to the Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill.

All cases of doubt as to eligibility of candidates shall be referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence.

Article V Government

(a) The government of the Order shall be vested in:

1. The five Officers of Grand Nest, as follows:

Most Loyal Grand Gander,

Grand Supervisor of the Flock,
Grand Custodian of the Ganders,
Grand Guardian of the Nest,
Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill, and

2. Pond Delegates, not to exceed two (2) from each Pond, elected and qualified as hereinafter provided, who shall be entitled to be seated and vote upon legislation considered at the annual Grand Nest meetings.

(b) If any Pond is represented at a Grand Nest Meeting by two delegates, each delegate shall cast one vote, but in the event of a Pond being represented by only one delegate, said delegate shall be entitled to cast two votes for his/her Pond. No delegate shall be permitted to vote by proxy, but this rule shall not operate to prevent one delegate from casting two (2) votes when the second delegate from his/her Pond has not been elected or appointed.

(c) Twenty (20) delegates shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at a meeting of the Grand Nest.

(d) The fiscal year of the Grand nest shall begin on July 1 of each year and end on June 30 the succeeding year.

(e) The Grand Nest officers shall be the Trustees of the Order and shall have the possession, management and control of the property belonging thereto and transact all the business relative to the investment and disposal thereof. They may sue and be sued in all matters pertaining to such property or business affairs of the Order in the name of "the Trustees of the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose, International." In their capacity as such Trustees, they and the said Honorable Order of the Blue Goose, International, shall be deemed to have a corporate entity under and pursuant to provisions of Chapter 188 of the Statutes of the State of Wisconsin.

(f) The Grand Nest officers, on due application made to them, may authorize any Pond or the Wisconsin Home Nest to incorporate as a subordinate Pond or division of the Grand Order, but for the purpose of securing uniformity in the administration of the privileges, honors and benefits of the Order any and all Articles of Incorporation and Association shall provide that such corporation or associations shall be subject to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Grand Order and the By-Laws and the rules and regulations pertaining to Pond Government.

Article VI Regions

The Order shall consist of four (4) Regions, and each Region shall encompass all Ponds within the following geographical boundaries:

1. Canadian, including all Provinces;
2. Central—Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin and Wyoming;
3. Eastern-- Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia;
4. Southern-- Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia;

Explanatory Note--Changes in the above allocations may be made only as prescribed for amendments to the Constitution.

Article VII Grand Nest Officers

(a) No Gander shall be eligible to hold a Grand Nest elective office unless he/she is a duly elected and qualified delegate and has served one full term (or year) as an elective officer of a Pond, or unless he/she has heretofore served as a Grand Nest elective officer.

(b) The officers of the Grand Nest, other than the Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill, shall be elected annually by a majority vote of the Delegates present at the annual Meeting of the Grand Nest, and shall hold office until adjournment of the annual Grand Nest Meeting following their election or until their successors shall be elected and installed.

(c) The Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill shall be appointed by the four other Grand Nest officers upon the nomination of the Most Loyal Grand Gander. He/she shall be a member of the Wisconsin Home Nest or duly endorsed by such Pond. He/she shall serve during the tenure of office of the Most Loyal Grand Gander by whom he/she was nominated. He/she may be removed at any time by the unanimous vote of the four other Grand Nest officers.

(d) Beginning with the 111th Grand Nest Convention, the Grand Guardian of the Nest shall be chosen from the region from which the retiring Most Loyal Grand Gander was elected; and in case of withdrawal of a Grand Nest officer or an emergency making necessary the election of more than one new Grand Nest officer, the candidates shall be chosen from the Regions from which retiring officers were chosen, and providing further that there shall at all times be an elective Grand Nest officer from each of the four regions of the Order.

(e) Grand Nest officers-elect shall be installed at the same meeting at which they are elected, except in case any officer-elect is prevented by illness or other unavoidable cause or emergency from being present, such officer-elect may be installed by proxy nominated by the installing officer.

(f) All past Most Loyal Grand Ganders shall be ex-officio associate members of the Grand Nest, and as such entitled to all privileges of the floor, except voting.

(g) There shall be an Executive Committee of the Grand Nest, composed of the Most Loyal Grand Gander, Grand Supervisor of the Flock and Grand Custodian of the Ganders. They shall have final authority in the interim between Grand Nest meetings; they shall have the privilege of meeting at least once a year, or more often if by them deemed necessary.

(h) The Most Loyal Grand Gander shall appoint the following Officers of the Grand Nest to serve during his/her term in office:

1. As many Deputy Most Loyal Grand Ganders as shall be deemed desirable.
2. A successor to fill any vacancy created as a result of a Grand Nest Officer's resignation, incapacitation or ineligibility. Each such appointee shall be from the same Region as the Officer whom he/she succeeds, except the office of Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill, which shall be governed by (c) above.
3. An attorney for the Order, who shall be known as the Judge Advocate. He/she shall be a Gander in good standing and shall act as the legal adviser of the Grand Nest and its officers.
4. A historian for the Order, who shall be known as the Grand Nest Historian. He/she shall be a Gander in good standing. The Historian shall be responsible for the recording, archiving and preservation of the history of the Order during his/her term in office.

5. A treasurer for the Order, who shall be officially known as the Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg, but who may also be referred to as the 'Grand Treasurer'. He/she shall be professionally certified or otherwise sufficiently knowledgeable of accounting and financial matters as well as be a Gander in good standing. The Grand Keeper shall be responsible for the development of the annual budget, hire, manage and provide oversight to the Order's outside accounting firm regarding financial and tax reporting of the Grand Nest and shall act as the financial advisor of the Grand Nest and its officers as pertains the operations, budgeting and financial planning of the Order.

Article VIII Annual Meetings

(a) The officers of the Grand Nest shall meet annually at such time and place as shall be deemed by a majority vote of the delegates present at the previous annual meeting. However, if an emergency should arise, the meeting place may be changed by the Executive Committee of the Grand Nest.

(b) Delegates to the Grand Nest meeting shall meet at the same time and place for the annual election of Grand Nest officers and the transaction of such other business as shall properly come before them.

(c) The order of business at the annual Grand Nest meeting shall be as follows:

1. Invocation.
2. Songs – one verse of "America," "O'Canada," and/or other national song as deemed appropriate by the highest ranking officer present.
3. Report Committee on Credentials.
4. Reading of minutes of previous meeting.
5. Address of the Most Loyal Grand Gander.
6. Reports of officers.
7. Reports of committees.

8. Reports of delegates.
9. Unfinished business.
10. New business.
11. Election of officers.
12. Installation of officers.

The flags of all nations represented at the Annual Meeting together with Pond banners or pennants, are to be displayed in the meeting chamber and/or banquet hall.

Article IX Seal

The seal of this Order shall be the outline of a Blue Goose upon a blue field, said seal to be two (2) inches in diameter.

The official Blue Goose Membership Emblem shall be the Blue Goose in flight--to the right--with wings extended in a downward position, and the emblems for the other purposes provided for in the By-Laws shall be those traditionally in use by the Order.

Article X Pond Government

(a) The government of each Pond shall be vested in six (6) officers, who shall be elected annually by a majority vote of the Ganders present at its annual meeting, and shall hold office for one year or until their successors shall be elected and installed, and shall consist of:

Most Loyal Gander
Supervisor of the Flock
Custodian of the Goslings
Guardian of the Pond
Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg
Wielder of the Goose Quill

(b) Pond officers-elect shall be installed by a Past or Present Grand Nest officer or a Past or Present Most Loyal Gander, at the same meeting at which they are elected.

(c) There shall be appointed annually by the Most Loyal Gander six (6) Guards to the Custodian of the Goslings, who shall hold office until their successors shall be appointed.

(d) Meetings of Ponds may be held at any time on call of the Most Loyal Gander or his/her successor.

(e) The fiscal year of every Pond shall begin on July 1 of each year and end on June 30 of the succeeding year.

(f) The Order of Business at Pond meetings shall be as follows:

1. Reading of minutes of preceding meeting.
2. Balloting on applications.
3. Conferring the degree.
4. Reports of officers.
5. Reports of committees.
6. Unfinished business.
7. New business.
8. Election of officers.
9. Installation of officers.

Article XI Puddle Formation

(a) Upon receipt of an application form signed by a number of Ganders determined by the sponsoring Pond for the formation of a Puddle, the officers of the Pond with which the proposed Puddle is to be affiliated shall, after due inquiry and being satisfied that its formation is desirable, select a date, time and place for the initial meeting.

(b) At such meeting, the Most Loyal Gander of the Pond, or a member of the Order holding at least equal rank, acting for him/her, shall preside. In the absence of the regular Pond officers, the presiding officer for the occasion may

fill the offices of Supervisor of the Flock, Custodian of the Goslings, Guardian of the Pond and Wielder of the Goose Quill by appointment from the Ganders present.

(c) After the Pond is properly assembled, the meeting will proceed in accordance with the rules of the government of Ponds. The question of the formation of a Puddle shall be dealt with under new business. If the vote is favorable to the organization of the Puddle, the next order of business shall be the election and installation of the Puddle officers who, after the first election, shall be chosen in accordance with the provisions governing the election of Pond officers. The name of the Puddle shall be the Puddle of the Pond of the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose, International.

Article XII Puddle Government

(a) The government of the Puddle shall be vested in the officers of the Puddle, subject, however, to all of the rules and regulations of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Grand Order and the By-Laws and rules and regulations pertaining to Pond government, and further subject to the approval of the officers of the Pond.

(b) Puddle Officers shall be members in good standing of the Pond with which the Puddle is affiliated, shall be elected annually by a majority vote of Puddle members present not later than two weeks previous to the annual meeting of such Pond, and shall consist of the "Loyal Gander," whose duties shall consist of those of President--"Puddle Supervisor," Vice-President, "Puddle Wielder," Secretary-Treasurer, and "Puddle Guardian," Sergeant-at-Arms. A Puddle may also elect to adopt "Big Toad," as President, "Polliwog," as Vice-President, "Croaker," as Secretary/Treasurer, and "Bouncer," as Sergeant-at-Arms, as its officer titles, and shall promptly notify the parent Pond of such decision.

(c) Puddle meetings (except the annual meeting) may be held at any time on call of the Loyal Gander or by one authorized by him/her to do so, and at least six members shall be required to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at Puddle meetings.

The display of national colors at all Pond and Puddle meetings is recommended.

Article XIII
Delegates to the Annual Meeting

(a) Each Pond, at its annual meeting, shall elect no more than two (2) delegates to the annual Meeting of the Grand Nest.

(b) Upon request, Delegates may be reimbursed for their actual necessary expenses personally incurred for attendance at the annual meeting of the Grand Nest, in an amount decided by the Pond, but not less than the rate of Pond reimbursement by the Grand Nest [By-Laws, Section 3(f)].

(c) Should a vacancy occur in the office of delegate, the Pond shall fill the vacancy at the next regular meeting thereafter, unless such vacancy shall occur within fifteen (15) days prior to a meeting of the Grand Nest, then the Most Loyal Gander shall appoint a Gander in good standing, who is a member of or has dual membership in that Pond, to serve as a delegate.

(d) Credentials for each delegate shall be prepared in duplicate and certified by the Most Loyal Gander or Supervisor of the Flock and Wielder of the Goose Quill, not later than ten (10) days prior to the annual Grand Nest meeting, the copy to be mailed at once to the office of the Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill, and the original I presented to the delegate who must, after arrival at the place of the annual Grand Nest meeting, present it to the Committee on Credentials before he/she shall be entitled to a seat and a vote in the annual Grand Nest Meeting. Each credential must show on its face that the Gander named therein is either one of the two delegates with the authority to cast one vote, or is the sole delegate and is entitled to cast two votes representing the Pond.

Article XIV
Amendments

These shall be the only Constitution and By-Laws for the government of the Grand Nest and all Ponds, and either may be amended only at an annual Grand Nest meeting by two-thirds vote of delegates present provided, however, that written notice of any proposed change shall be sent by mail, facsimile, electronic mail or other means when deemed necessary or appropriate by the Executive Committee or the Most Loyal Grand Gander to each Pond at least ninety (90) days prior to any such annual meeting; and providing further that the Constitution and By-Laws Committee shall have received written notice of any such proposed change at least one hundred twenty (120) days prior to such annual meeting.

Article XV
Parliamentary Authority

Robert's Rules of Order is adopted as the parliamentary authority.



GRAND NEST GOVERNMENT

Section 1 Duties of Grand Nest Officers

Duties of the Grand Nest Officers shall be as follows:

(a) MOST LOYAL GRAND GANDER: To preside at the annual meeting of the Grand Nest; to have the general supervision over the officers of the Ponds and full authority over the officers of the Grand Nest; to promote the increase of the membership of the Order; to appoint necessary Committees, and to be ex-officio a member of every Grand Nest Committee, and to be Chairman of the Executive Committee;

To meet with the other elective Grand Nest officers immediately following adjournment of the Grand Nest Meeting at which he/she was elected and installed, when he/she shall make nomination for the office of Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill as provided in paragraph (c) of Article VII;

To have authority to suspend, until the next Grand Nest Meeting, any Pond that violates the provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws, such suspension to be in full force and effect until ratified or removed at said Grand Nest Meeting;

To have authority, by and with the consent of the Executive Committee, to suspend or remove any appointive officer or committeeperson except the Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill;

Approval of expenditures of Grand Nest Funds and countersignature on all checks for any such expenditures in amounts equal to or greater than an amount set by the Executive Committee; and

To sign Pond Charters.

(b) GRAND SUPERVISOR OF THE FLOCK: Those duties delegated to the Most Loyal Grand Gander, in the absence or disability of the latter:

He/she is ex-officio a member of the Executive Committee.

(c) GRAND CUSTODIAN OF THE GANDERS: He/she is ex-officio a member of the Executive Committee.

(d) GRAND GUARDIAN OF THE NEST: Shall serve on various Grand Nest committees and perform duties at the direction of the Most Loyal Grand Gander.

(e) GRAND KEEPER OF THE GOLDEN GOOSE EGG: To require from the Wielder of each Pond within thirty (30) days after the close of each fiscal year, a duplicate statement of that Pond's account with the Grand Nest for the fiscal year just closed, certified by the Most Loyal Gander, by the Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg and attested by the Wielder. Said statement to be on a form prescribed by the Executive Committee of the Grand Nest and to be a duplicate of one furnished to the Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill for the purpose of annual audit.

(f) GRAND WIELDER OF THE GOOSE QUILL: To keep a complete record of the proceedings of the annual and Special Grand Nest meetings, Executive meetings and decisions and committee reports, and to supply the Grand Nest Officers with a copy thereof:

To maintain a complete membership list;

To promptly deposit in the bank designated by the Executive Committee, all funds received and belonging to the Grand Nest;

To secure a blanket fidelity bond in the sum of One Hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00), covering all of the elective and appointed officers of Grand Nest, the expense of such bond to be paid by the Grand Nest;

To keep accurate and sufficient books of account for the Order;

To issue, countersign and transmit checks in payment of Grand Nest accounts and to secure the countersignature of the Most Loyal Grand Gander as may be required by these By-Laws;

To furnish monthly to the Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg for verification, and to the Most Loyal Grand Gander and to other Grand Nest officers for information, statement of all funds received and bills paid, together with amount on deposit in the bank;

To require from the Wielder of each Pond within thirty (30) days after the close of each fiscal year a statement of that Pond's account with the Grand Nest for the fiscal year just closed, certified by the Most Loyal Gander, by the Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg and attested by the Wielder. Said statement to be on a form prescribed by the Executive Committee of the Grand Nest and to be an original of one furnished to the Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg for the purpose of annual audit of the accounts of the Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill;

To countersign Pond Charters;

To carry on correspondence necessary and incident to the office, and to send copies thereof to the Most Loyal Grand Gander with complete record of the subject;

To issue Certificates of Flight; and

To supervise the publication and distribution of the Grand Nest Bulletins.

(g) All Grand Nest officers shall meet with the Most Loyal Grand Gander immediately following adjournment of the Grand Nest Meeting at which they were elected and installed, for the purpose of receiving the nomination for the appointment of the Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill as provided in Article VII, (c) and Section 1.(a).

Section 2 Committee on Jurisprudence

(a) There shall be appointed by the Most Loyal Grand Gander, a Committee on Jurisprudence, consisting of three (3) Ganders, to serve for one, two and three years, respectively.

(b) This Committee shall have jurisdiction over the interpretation of the Constitution and By-Laws, eligibility of membership, disputes, controversies and such other subjects as may be submitted by a Pond or a Gander, provided that nothing heretofore shall be construed as superseding the powers granted to each Pond.

(c) Any matter submitted to the Committee on Jurisprudence shall be considered and decided by the Committee as constituted at the time of submission, although the term of service of some of its members may have expired before a decision is reached.

(d) If any member of the Committee on Jurisprudence should become disqualified by reason of direct personal interest, or by other inability to properly serve, another Gander shall be appointed, to serve temporarily in the particular case.

(e) The decisions of the Committee on Jurisprudence shall be binding until the next meeting of the Grand Nest and shall be final unless then revoked by a two-thirds majority vote of the delegates present.

Section 3 Reimbursement of Expenses

(a) Unless otherwise authorized by prior approval of the Executive Committee, reimbursement of expenses to Grand Nest Officers shall be for such actual necessary expenses that are personally incurred, and shall be restricted to the following circumstances:

1. Expenses of the Grand Nest elective Officers, Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill, Judge Advocate, Grand Historian and Grand Keeper of the

Golden Goose Egg and their spouses, for attendance at the Grand Nest meeting;

2. Expenses of the Grand Nest Executive Committee Officers and Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill for attendance at Executive Committee meetings called by the Most Loyal Grand Gander;

3. Expenses of the Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg and the Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill for attendance at the Annual Audit Meeting;

4. Expenses of Grand Nest elective and appointed Officers for special meetings or activities specifically authorized by the Grand Nest Executive Committee or the Most Loyal Grand Gander; and

5. Expenses of the Most Loyal Grand Gander for Pond visitations at his/her discretion.

(b) Deputy Most Loyal Grand Ganders and other Ganders designated by the Most Loyal Grand Gander for special duty shall receive reimbursement from the Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill for actual necessary expenses personally incurred by reason of special trips authorized by the Executive Committee or the Most Loyal Grand Gander.

(c) No committee shall be reimbursed for any expenses unless previously authorized by the Executive Committee.

(d) The Grand Nest shall provide official stationery to all elective officers, the Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill, Judge Advocate, Grand Historian and the Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders.

(e) All letterheads, envelopes, additional Rituals, seals, charters and emblems of the Order shall be furnished to each Pond by the Grand Nest, with the cost thereof to be charged to, and paid for, by the Pond.

(f) The Grand Nest shall reimburse each Pond the cost of reasonable tourist air travel or mileage at the official U.S. Government rate, whichever is less, of not more than two accredited delegates attending the Grand Nest Annual Meeting, when such delegates attend the Meeting at the expense of the Pond. Provided, however, that the Grand Nest shall not reimburse the Pond for such expense in an amount greater than one-half (1/2) the Grand Nest dues as specified in Section 8(g) per active dues paying member for the year ending June 30, prior to each annual convention.

(g) The Grand Nest shall pay to the General Convention Fund of the Host Pond each year, an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the Grand Nest dues as specified in Section 8(g) for the fiscal year ending June 30th preceding the convention.

Although there is no restriction as to how and when this sum is used, if the Host Pond decides to return all or any part of it to the Grand Nest, it shall be placed in a separate Host Pond Fund for the use of future Grand Nest Host Ponds as may be deemed necessary by the Executive Committee.

POND GOVERNMENT

Section 4 Annual Meetings

(a) A Nominating Committee may be appointed by the Most Loyal Gander at least thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting of the Pond, such committee to recommend the nomination of candidates proposed for election to the various offices.

(b) The election of Pond officers shall be by ballot at the annual meeting; the candidate for each office receiving the majority of votes cast shall be declared elected and shall hold office for one year or until his successor is elected and qualified. No Gander shall be permitted to vote by proxy.

(c) Ten (10) Ganders of a Pond shall constitute a quorum.

(d) Vacancies in offices of the Pond shall be filled by ballot at any regular or called meeting, and a majority of the votes cast shall elect.

(e) The station of the Most Loyal Gander shall be on the front bank of the Pond and his/her duties shall be: to call the flock together and direct its meanderings; to supervise the conferring of the degree; to deliver the sacred works of the Pond; to maintain dignity and decorum; to have the general supervision and management of the offices of the Pond; to promote the increase of its membership, and to execute vouchers authorizing disbursements by the Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg;

(f) The station of the Supervisor of the Flock shall be on the rear bank of the Pond and his/her duties shall be: To preside in the absence of the Most Loyal Gander; to assist in preserving order; to order the admittance of all Ganders entitled to enter during the session upon the satisfactory report of the Guardian of the Pond, and to assist in the conferring of the degree.

(g) In the absence of the Pond officers, one of the Ganders present shall be elected by a majority vote to preside over the meeting.

(h) The station of the Custodian of the Goslings shall be on the bank of the pond to the Most Loyal Gander's left and his/her duties shall be: To welcome and introduce visiting Ganders; to receive innocent and unsuspecting Goslings and to accompany and give them safe guidance at their first swim in the Pond; to supervise all preparations for conferring the degree; to take up the password upon the opening of the Pond and satisfy himself that all present are Ganders, when he/she will report to the Supervisor of the Flock; to have custody of the insignia and paraphernalia of the Pond, and to be responsible for its safekeeping and presence when required for use.

(i) The station of the Guardian of the Pond shall be at the entrance to the Pond, and his/her duties shall be: To receive the password from all Ganders desiring to enter therein while in session. If found correct, to admit them on order of the Supervisor of the Flock.

(j) The station of the Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg shall be on the right of the Most Loyal Gander, and his/her duties shall be: To receive all funds paid over to him/her by the Wielder of the Goose Quill, giving proper receipts and disbursements of the Pond and to pay out such sums as may be called for by voucher by the Wielder of the Goose Quill, when signed by the Most Loyal Gander.

(k) The station of the Wielder of the Goose Quill shall be on the left side of the Most Loyal Gander, and his/her duties shall be: To keep a proper record of all proceedings of the Pond; to receive and present applications from strange Goslings seeking entrance, and such other communications as may be presented; to maintain a complete membership list; to collect and transmit to the Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg all funds; to countersign vouchers executed by the Most Loyal Gander covering disbursements by the Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg, and to make all required reports to the Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill.

(l) It shall be the duty of the Guards to prepare and present strange Goslings for their first swim in the Pond, and to assist the Custodian of the Goslings in conferring the degree.

Section 5 Executive Committee

The Most Loyal Gander, Supervisor of the Flock and Wielder of the Goose Quill of each Pond, shall constitute the Executive Committee and are empowered, in the intervals between meetings, to transact routine business needing immediate attention.

Section 6 Membership Committee

(a) The Most Loyal Gander shall appoint a standing Committee on Membership, consisting of three Ganders who shall suggest to the Pond legitimate

means for increasing the membership, investigate applicants and report thereon to the Wielder of the Goose Quill.

(b) Whenever, in the judgment of the Most Loyal Gander, any or all of the members of the Committee on Membership shall be excused from passing on any applicant, he/she shall appoint a member or members to temporarily fill any vacancy thus created.

Section 7 Applications for Membership

Goslings, desiring membership in this Order, shall make written application to the nearest Pond, on blanks prescribed by the Grand Nest, which application before presentation to the Pond (accompanied by initiation fee as determined by such Pond) must be approved by three (3) Ganders in good standing, then referred to the Committee on Membership for investigation, following which, if approved by the Committee on Membership, the application (with initiation fee) shall be filed with the Wielder of the Goose Quill. The Wielder of the Goose Quill shall dispose of the application in accordance with Section 8 of the By-Laws.

Section 8 Rules of Membership

(a) At every regularly called meeting of each Pond, the Wielder of the Goose Quill shall report on applications for membership which are accompanied by initiation fee. All applications must be approved by the Membership Committee before they are submitted to the Wielder of the Goose Quill. The Pond shall vote upon such applications by ballot. Three (3) negative votes shall be required to reject an applicant.

(Note: If not more than two (2) negative ballots are cast, the vote shall be recorded as unanimous.)

(b) If an applicant is rejected, his application shall be immediately referred back to the Committee on Membership. Said Committee shall promptly make further investigation and report to the Wielder of the Goose Quill. If the report recommends the applicant as worthy, the Pond shall again vote upon the application, but not until six (6) months after the date of the Committee's report.

(c) If any Gosling, who has been elected failed to be present for initiation, and has not been given the Obligation and Charge within one year after his election, the Wielder of the Goose Quill shall notify him/her that his/her election is void and his/her enrollment and initiation fees will be returned to him/her.

(d) If a Gosling is prevented, by good and sufficient cause, from attending a regular meeting of the Pond, then the Obligation and Charge may be administered to such Gosling by the Most Loyal Gander or the Supervisor of the Flock in the presence of

one other officer of the Pond. However, this concession shall not free the said Gosling from presenting himself/herself for the remainder of the initiation to the nearest and most convenient Pond within the period provided for in paragraph (c) of this section, at which time he/she must present proper credential signed by the officer of the Pond who administered the Obligation and Charge.

(e) No Gander's name shall be entered upon the membership roll of any Pond nor reported to the Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill until he/she shall have been initiated and/or given the obligation and charge. His/her membership shall date from his/her initiation and/or obligation and his/her initiation fee shall cover his/her dues to the end of the current fiscal year.

(f) Within ten (10) days after admission of a new Gander, the Wielder of the Goose Quill shall render to the Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill, a report giving name, post office address, title of such new Gander, the name of the Company or association with which the Gander is affiliated, together with a remittance in the amount of Grand Nest dues as specified in Section 8(g) as an enrollment fee.

(g) On or before September 1st of each year, the Wielder of the Goose Quill of each Pond shall forward to the Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill a certified roll of membership of such Pond, as of that date, together with remittance in full for Grand Nest dues of twenty-seven dollars (\$27.00) U.S. for each Gander.

(h) If by reason of unemployment a Gander is prevented from paying the dues to the Pond, and the Pond votes to suspend payment, such action by the Pond shall automatically suspend payment of Grand Nest dues for such Gander.

(i) Should a Pond advance Grand Nest dues for a Gander suspended at the next annual meeting for non-payment of dues, the Pond may take credit for such advanced Grand Nest dues when submitting the certified roll of membership and remitting to the Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill following said annual meeting.

(j) Annual dues of each Pond, and their affiliated Puddles, shall be determined by a majority vote of the Ganders present at the annual meeting of each Pond.

(k) Any Gosling seeking admission to a Pond prior to May 1st of any year may have the annual Pond dues for the balance of the current year commuted on a pro-rata basis of local Pond dues and full initiation fees but he/she must pay the regular Grand Nest dues in addition to the commuted Pond dues; any Gosling seeking admission after May 1st shall be required to pay in advance full local Pond dues and the Grand Nest dues for the ensuing fiscal year.

Section 9 Dual Pond Membership

(a) A Gander desiring membership in more than one Pond may be granted this privilege if in good standing in the Pond with which he/she is at that time affiliated, by filing an application for membership with the officers of any Pond, and shall be balloted upon as prescribed in Section 8; and if elected, he/she shall be enrolled as a member of such Pond, without further ceremony.

(b) A Gander being admitted to dual membership shall be reported by the Wielder of the Goose Quill of the Pond in which dual membership is obtained within ten (10) days thereof, to the Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill, giving the name and post office address of the Gander and the name of the original Pond of which he/she is then a member. Any Gander elected to membership in this way shall pay the Grand Nest dues only through the Pond with which he/she was originally affiliated.

(c) Nothing in this Section shall be construed to bar a Gander from having membership in more than one Pond.

Section 10 Transfers Between Ponds

(a) Any Gander desiring to transfer allegiance from one Pond to another shall file a Petition for Flight with the Wielder of the Goose Quill of the Pond in which he/she is currently a member, on the regular form provided by the Grand Nest.

(b) If such Gander is in good standing and has paid the dues for the current fiscal year, such Petition shall be endorsed by the Most Loyal Gander and the Wielder of the Goose Quill, and immediately sent to the Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill, whereupon Certificate of Flight shall be duly executed and forwarded by the Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill to the Wielder of the Goose Quill of the Pond to which flight is taken.

(c) If such Gander is elected, he/she shall be enrolled as a member of the Pond to which transferred, and, if rejected, he/she shall be restored to membership in the Pond from which he/she asked Certificate of Flight, which Pond shall thereupon again enroll the Gander named in the Certificate as a member of such Pond.

(d) No dues shall be required for the remainder of the fiscal year from any Gander received into any Pond on Certificate of Flight.

Section 11 Membership Out of Jurisdiction

(a) Goslings who are eligible for membership, but reside and operate in a territory not within the jurisdiction of a State or Provincial Pond, and who desire

membership in this Order, shall make written application to the Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill, accompanied by an initiation fee in the amount of Grand Nest dues as specified in Section 8(g) and requisite payment for an emblem. The application must be approved by three (3) Ganders in good standing and must also receive the unanimous approval of the Executive Committee of the Grand Nest. Upon election to membership, applicants shall be so notified by the Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill and must, unless by special dispensation of the Executive Committee of the Grand Nest, present themselves and proper credentials signed by the Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill, for initiation of a meeting of the nearest, or most convenient Pond. Thereafter, they shall be enrolled as Ganders-at-Large by the Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill.

(b) All such Ganders-at-Large mentioned in the preceding paragraph shall pay annually to the Grand Nest dues in the amount specified in Section 8(g), same to be payable by June 30th of each year and collected by the Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill. Should a Pond be organized at any time in the territory embracing the residence of any such Gander-at-Large, his/her membership shall be automatically transferred to such Pond and he/she shall be notified of this action by the Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill, and thereafter shall be a member of such Pond and subject to its jurisdiction.

Section 12 Honorary Membership

(a) No Gander shall be eligible to honorary membership who has not been a member of the Order in good standing for at least five (5) consecutive years. It is further provided that this honor shall not be conferred merely as a routine compliment and in no case unless a Gander shall have been signally distinguished by service in behalf of the Order and clearly merits this special honor.

(b) All Ganders nominated for honorary membership shall first be passed upon by the Executive Committee of the Grand Nest, the Pond so petitioning having the right to appeal to the Grand Nest Committee on Jurisprudence should their petition be denied by the Executive Committee of the Grand Nest.

(c) No Pond shall nominate more than one honorary member during any one fiscal year. The Pond shall pay to the Grand Nest dues as specified in Section 8(g) annually for each honorary member.

(d) Honorary members shall enjoy all the privileges of regular membership.

Section 13 Dues, Suspension, Reinstatement

(a) On or before March 30th of each year it shall be the duty of the Wielder of the Goose Quill to advise the Pond of the names of all Ganders who have failed to

pay their dues for the fiscal year ending June 30th, and it shall be compulsory upon the Pond to declare such Ganders suspended for non-payment of dues, and on or before April 5th to notify the Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill of each suspension, subject to the relief provided in paragraph (h) of Section 8.

(b) On petition, such suspended Ganders may be reinstated upon paying the current year's dues. They shall be balloted upon in the same manner as provided for a Gosling (See Section 8, paragraph (a)).

(c) On petition, a member resigning in good standing may be reinstated, upon payment of dues for the current year, including Grand Nest dues as specified in Section 8(g), the same to accompany the petition, which shall be balloted upon in the same manner as provided for a Gosling.

(d) Also, any former member regardless of present occupation classification is eligible for reinstatement to membership upon proper application and Pond approval and with payment of the Pond's current year's dues as specified in Section 8(g).

Section 14 Life Membership

(a) Each Past Most Loyal Grand Gander shall become a life member of his/her Pond and the Grand Nest shall issue a certificate of such membership and forward the same to the Pond for signatures and presentation, all subject to paragraphs 3 and 4 of this Section.

(b) Any Gander who has been a member in good standing, affiliated with one or more State or Provincial Ponds for at least twenty-five years, shall be entitled to State or Provincial Life Membership under the following conditions:

1. Upon reaching the age of seventy years, whether actively engaged in the various phases of insurance business or other business pursuits or retired from active business life; or,
2. Upon reaching the age that brings complete retirement from active duties of company employment through operation of his company's rules, provided that the sum of the number of years that he/she has been affiliated with one or more Ponds and the Gander's age is ninety or more; or,
3. A Gander who has been such a Gander for twenty-five years and retires because of ill health or dismemberment with the consent of his employer, may apply to the Grand Nest Executive Committee for Life Membership. The decision of the Executive Committee shall be conclusive.

4. Any Gander honored under the first, second or third sections of this By-Law shall cease to pay annual dues to the State or Provincial Pond of which he/she is a member. State or Provincial Ponds shall be relieved of paying Grand Nest dues of the Gander honored by Life Membership.

5. State or Provincial Pond life members shall enjoy all the privileges of regular membership.

(c) Any Gander in good standing, who has maintained membership in one or more State or Provincial Ponds, or as a Gander-at-Large, for at least fifty years, and whose eligibility has been confirmed, as stipulated under Section (e) below, shall be accorded special recognition by the Pond with which he/she is then affiliated, such recognition to include presentation of an appropriate emblem signifying fifty years membership.

(d) Any Gander in good standing, who has maintained membership in one or more State or Provincial Ponds, or as a Gander-at-Large, for at least twenty-five years, and whose eligibility has been confirmed as stipulated under Section (e) below, shall be accorded special recognition by the Pond with which he/she is then affiliated, such recognition to include presentation of an appropriate emblem signifying twenty-five years membership.

(e) Eligibility under (c) or (d) shall be confirmed in writing by the Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill, based on official records of the Grand Nest; except that, in cases where eligibility cannot be determined, due to lack of or incomplete Grand Nest records, eligibility shall be confirmed, in writing, by the Grand Nest Executive Committee, following receipt of affirmative recommendations and satisfactory supporting evidence from the Pond with which the candidate is affiliated.

(f) Upon completion of their terms of office and as an expression of appreciation for services rendered, an appropriate emblem shall be awarded to the Most Loyal Grand Gander and Most Loyal Gander of each Pond.

(g) An appropriate combination emblem signifying service as a Past Most Loyal Grand Gander or a Past Most Loyal Gander and either fifty or twenty-five years membership shall be presented to eligible Ganders.

Section 15 Loss of Membership for Cause

(a) Authority for suspension or expulsion of a Gander for sufficient cause, except as provided in Section 13, paragraph (a), shall be vested in the Pond, as a Committee of the Whole, with power to delegate duties of investigation to a sub-committee of three (3) Ganders to be appointed by the Most Loyal Gander.

(b) It shall be the duty of the sub-committee to examine the accused Gander concerning the charges against him/her and to accord the accused Gander a full and impartial hearing.

(c) Willful failure or refusal on the part of the accused to give full information to either the Pond or the duly constituted sub-committee shall be construed as justification for adverse action.

(d) The convicted Gander may appeal from the finding of the Pond to the Committee on Jurisprudence, provided he/she does so within thirty (30) days subsequent to the rendering of the verdict by the Pond.

(e) In case such appeal is filed, the Pond shall forward a complete record of the case to the Committee on Jurisprudence, which shall render a decision within sixty (60) days following receipt of the record of the case.

(f) Pending the decision of the Committee on Jurisprudence, the verdict of the Pond shall stand against the accused Gander.

(g) Any Gander convicted of a felony or high crime by a Court of Record shall be dropped from Pond membership without notice or hearing, immediately relieved of any office thereof, and upon notice to the Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill, shall have his/her name stricken from the rolls of the Order.

Section 16 Memory of Ritual

For the good of the Order, each officer of the Grand Nest and Ponds shall commit to memory his part of the ritual, in order that installations and initiations may accord with the high ideals of the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose, International.

Section 17 Pond Dissolution

Any Pond desiring to disband shall give the Grand Nest thirty (30) days' notice of such intention, stating specifically the reasons for this action. Upon acceptance and approval by the Grand Nest, the Pond shall immediately transmit to the Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill all Pond funds and records.

Section 18 Puddle Government

(a) Puddle officers shall be installed at the same meeting at which they are elected.

(b) There shall be appointed by the Loyal Gander such committees as in his/her opinion shall be necessary to conduct the affairs of the Puddle.

(c) Any vacancies in the offices of a Puddle shall be filled by ballot at any meeting and a majority of the vote cast shall elect.

(d) Pond dues of the members of a Puddle shall be such dues as have been determined by the members of the Pond, as provided in Section 8(j) of the Bylaws, and shall be payable to the Pond Wielder. Dues of the Puddle, which are in addition to and exclusive of Pond dues, shall be determined by a majority vote of the members present at the regular annual meeting of the Puddle. Such Puddle dues shall be payable to the Puddle Wielder.

Section 19 Monetary System

(a) All dollar amounts specified in any Article of the Constitution, or any Section of these By-Laws shall be payable in United States funds.

(b) However remittance of dues [By-Laws, Section 8(g)] by, and delegate expense reimbursements [By-Laws, Section 3(f)] to, the Canadian Region Ponds shall be subject to the officially published Monetary Exchange Rate (MER) on the 31st day of March prior to the beginning of each fiscal year, to a maximum of 1.25. The Grand Wielder shall ascertain and notify the Canadian Region Ponds of such rate in May of each year.

Section 20 Charity and Education

To further improve the image of this Honorable Order and to encourage further education among individuals engaged in the insurance industry, the following program has been adopted by the Grand Nest:

The Grand Nest officers are authorized to institute a program within the United States and Canada whereby the total sum of \$500 may be distributed annually in the United States and Canada to deserving students engaged in any facet of the insurance industry. The Grand Nest officers are authorized to enter into an agreement for the distribution of such awards with any recognized agency, which in the judgment of the officers is in a position to select the individuals entitled to such awards. Any such agreement is to be continued at the pleasure of the Grand Nest officers.

