

171.311 Kentucky Historical Society.

The Kentucky Historical Society created by Acts 1880, ch. 244, shall have all the powers and liabilities of a corporation and there is hereby granted to the society the following charter:

I

The Kentucky Historical Society shall collect, maintain, and preserve authentic records, information, facts, and relics connected with the history of the Commonwealth and the genealogy of her peoples; and promote a wider appreciation of the American heritage, with particular emphasis on the advancement and dissemination of knowledge of the history of Kentucky. The society may receive and hold by donation or devise, real or personal property to any extent and may, by gift, loan, purchase, or otherwise hold books, papers, documents, historical memorials, and any other articles suited to promote the objects of the society in the Old State Capitol Building but all such property shall be held in trust for the Commonwealth of Kentucky according to the terms of acceptance.

II

All American citizens, partnerships, corporations, or associations who shall evidence their dedication to the promotion of the objects and purposes of the society may become active members thereof upon their approval under regulations prescribed by the executive committee, and the payment of annual dues in a sum determined by the executive committee. Any person possessing the qualifications for membership may become a life member on the payment of a sum determined by the executive committee. The executive committee may determine classes of memberships and establish respective rates of dues. Every member in good standing, including the authorized representative of an institutional member, shall have the right to vote in person or by proxy, hold office, and otherwise take part in the proceedings of the society. Membership may be terminated by resignation or nonpayment of dues.

III

The officers of the society shall be a chancellor, who shall be the Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, a president, first, second, and third vice presidents, who shall be ex officio members of the executive committee. All officers, except the chancellor, shall be elected for a term of one (1) year at the annual meeting of the society in a manner provided by law, and the president shall be ineligible to succeed himself if he has been elected for two (2) successive terms.

IV

There is hereby created an executive committee which shall consist of sixteen (16) members, the officers of the society and one (1) person designated annually by the State Archives and Records Commission. The sixteen (16) members of the executive committee shall be divided into four (4) equal classes, so arranged that the terms of one (1) class shall expire at each annual meeting of the society. The class whose term expires shall be ineligible to succeed itself.

V

The executive committee shall execute all the powers and duties conferred on the society, except those expressly delegated to the officers. It shall adopt bylaws at any regular or special meeting. It shall supervise and direct the financial concerns of the society, approve an annual budget and provide for and fix the salaries of employees,

subject to the approval of the Personnel Cabinet. It shall provide for reimbursement of travel expenses of employees and may provide for reimbursement of expenses of officers and members of the executive committee incurred in performing specific duties assigned to them. It shall appoint a director, who shall be the management officer of the society under the direction of the president and policies established by the executive committee, and an assistant director, who shall assume the duties of the director in his absence and perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the director. It shall establish and prescribe the duties of such other positions as are necessary to operate the society, and all persons engaged to fill such positions shall be employed by the director, subject to the approval of the executive committee, which approval shall constitute exemption from KRS 18A.005 to 18A.200, and their work shall be under the director's supervision.

The committee shall provide for the publication or preservation of historical documents and manuscripts; publish an edition to be known as the "Register"; provide by contract, subject to the approval of the Finance and Administration Cabinet, for all the printing, publication, and distribution of reports, books, and other publications calculated to promote and advance the historical interest of Kentucky and augment the society's various collections at all times. It shall supervise and direct the ordinary affairs of the society; appoint a nominating committee; and determine other necessary committees of which the president and the director of the society shall be ex officio members. The committee shall cooperate with, provide assistance to, and coordinate its functions with those of the state Archives and Records Commission. It may designate honorary members of the society and it shall have the power to fill any vacancies until the next annual meeting, including those occurring within its own membership.

VI

The executive committee shall hold regular meetings in January, April, July, and October. Matters to be determined and discussed at such meetings shall be furnished the director at least ten (10) days prior to such meetings in order that he may prepare and distribute an agenda to each member of the committee at least three (3) days before the meeting. Special meetings shall be held at the request of the president or any three (3) members of the committee, in which case the director shall give written notice together with the agenda of such meeting at least ten (10) days in advance. In an emergency, nine (9) members of the committee may waive the provision of notice.

VII

The regular annual meeting of the society shall be held in the Old State Capitol Building on the first Friday after the first Monday in November. The meeting shall be open to all members. Special meetings may be called in Frankfort or elsewhere by the president or a majority of the executive committee or by the director upon the written request of twenty (20) members of the society. Members shall have fifteen (15) days written notice of the time, place and object of the meeting.

VIII

Twenty-five (25) members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of all business at any meeting of the society, and one-third (1/3) of the membership of the executive committee shall constitute a quorum at their respective meetings.

IX

The Chancellor of the Society, at his discretion, may preside at any meeting of the society or the executive committee, or he may participate otherwise in any meetings.

X

The president of the society shall be the chief executive officer of the society and shall preside over meetings of the society or the executive committee in the absence of the chancellor or at his request. He shall recommend the appointment of all necessary or desirable committees and he shall name persons to comprise such committees, except the nominating committee.

XI

The vice presidents of the society shall preside in the absence of their successive superiors in office at all meetings of the society and the executive committee. They shall attend all regular and special meetings of the society and the executive committee and endeavor to familiarize themselves with the conduct and operations of the affairs of the society. They shall aid and assist the president in the performance of his duties, counsel and advise the executive committee, and endeavor at all times to advance and promote the public interest in the history of Kentucky and her people.

XII

Nominations to membership on the executive committee and to the offices of president, first vice president, second vice president, and third vice president shall be made by a nominating committee or by any member present at the regular annual meeting. The nominating committee shall consist of five (5) members, shall be appointed at the first regular meeting of the executive committee after the annual meeting of the society and shall consider candidates to fill vacancies in the executive committee and offices which will occur at the subsequent annual meeting. The nominating committee shall meet in the office of the society forty-five (45) days prior to the annual meeting and nominate candidates to fill vacancies on the executive committee and at least one (1) candidate for the office of president, first vice president, second vice president, and third vice president, and file same with the president. Upon the call for the election of officers the president shall promptly report the nomination by the nominating committee together with all other nominations. When more than the required number of candidates have been nominated for membership on the executive committee or more than one (1) candidate for the offices to be filled, the president shall call for an election by the vote of those present, together with the number of votes cast by proxy, and a plurality of all votes cast shall be sufficient to elect. Where no vote count is required the president shall cast one (1) vote for each candidate and he or she shall be declared elected.

XIII

This charter may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting at any regular meeting or at any special meeting of the society called for the purpose, provided that written notice containing the substance of the proposed amendments shall have been mailed to members not less than thirty (30) days in advance of such meeting and the same approved as an amendment by the first General Assembly, meeting after the action of the society.

Effective: July 15, 1998

History: Amended 1998 Ky. Acts ch. 154, sec. 82, effective July 15, 1998. -- Amended 1982 Ky. Acts ch. 448, sec. 69, effective July 15, 1982. -- Amended

1980 Ky. Acts ch. 188, sec. 128, effective July 15, 1980. -- Amended 1974 Ky. Acts ch. 34, sec. 1. -- Amended 1962 Ky. Acts ch. 143, sec. 1. -- Created 1960 Ky. Acts ch. 169, sec. 1.