

## **BYLAWS OF MINORITY MEN'S NETWORK**

### **ARTICLE I NAME**

The name of this organization will be **MINORITY MEN'S NETWORK (MMN)**. Minority includes persons who define themselves as members of racial or ethnic minorities in the American population.

### **ARTICLE II. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

#### **A. MISSION STATEMENT;**

The **Minority Men's Network** is a group of Columbia, MO community leaders, who serve as a support group for individuals to provide leadership and to address issues that are vital to the minority community. The primary participants of **Minority Men's Network** are African American and other "at risk" minority males.

#### **B. GOALS AND PURPOSES:**

1. To serve as a network for persons wanting to serve the community, to provide leadership, and to encourage others to serve and to assume leadership roles.
2. To serve as a sounding board for issues affecting youth and adults in Columbia Missouri's minority community.
3. To be an information source for and to communicate to others, issues vital to the minority community.
4. To serve as role models both collectively and individually for youth.
5. To listen objectively and address community concerns that affect youth and adults in the minority community, with a special emphasis on furthering educational achievement and excellence.
6. To serve as a bridge of communication between the various ethnic minority communities in Columbia, Mo
7. To be supportive of established groups and organizations working for the betterment of minority groups such as NAACP, Imperials, Frederick Douglass Coalition, Girls and Boys Clubs and churches.
8. To establish a tax exempt education foundation to function as a funding source for scholarships for minority graduates of Boone county schools.

## **ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP**

### **A. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY**

The membership and opportunities for leadership will be open to all individuals and there shall be no discrimination on the basis of religion, age, race or color, gender, national origin, veteran status or disability.

### **B. MEMBERSHIP STATUS**

1. Membership will be open to all persons of Columbia, MO interested in furthering the purposes of the organization
2. Membership can be established by attending and participating in regular meetings.
3. Paying the annual dues.

### **C. RIGHTS**

All members will be eligible to vote, hold office, and attend meetings of MMN.

## **ARTICLE IV. EXECUTIVE BOARD AND OFFICERS**

### **A. COMPOSITION, ELECTIONS, MEETINGS AND TENURE**

1. The Executive Board of MMN consists of the following members, all of whom are officers of MMN: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer of MMN, Program Committee Chair, and the Public Relations Officer.
2. Officers must be regular members of MMN.
3. All officers, except the Secretary and Treasurer, will be elected at the annual meeting by a majority vote of members present. The Secretary and Treasurer will be elected every other annual meeting.
4. All terms except that of the Secretary and Treasurer will begin in September and remain in effect for one year. The Secretary and Treasurer's term will last for two years.
5. All officers, except the Secretary and Treasurer of MMN can serve up to three consecutive terms in any one capacity. The Secretary and Treasurer of MMN can serve only two consecutive terms.

## **B. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Executive Board/Board of Directors shall:
  - a. Meet at least once each quarter.
  - b. Approve the calendar for the year.
  - c. Develop and approve the budget and disburse funds.
  - d. Serve as a steering committee for special events.
  - e. Appoint representatives to external committees upon request.
  - f. Form and appoint internal and ad hoc committees.
  - g. Advise President about agenda for business meetings.
  - h. Respond to critical issues as they arise and take them to the membership when appropriate.
  
2. President shall:
  - a. Preside at meetings of MMN membership and the Executive Board.
  - b. Be responsible for overseeing MMN business.
  - c. Call meetings of the Executive Board.
  - d. Appoint ad hoc committees as needed.
  - e. Serve as an ex-officio member of all standing and ad hoc committees.
  - f. Work with Secretary/Treasurer to establish budget priorities.
  - g. Represent MMN at community meetings and other groups as appropriate.
  - h. Collect nominations and prepare ballots.
  - i. Serve as President of the Minority Men's Network Educational Foundation.
  
3. Vice President shall:
  - a. Perform the duties of the President in his absence.
  - b. Perform other duties assigned by the President.
  
4. Secretary of the MMN shall:
  - a. Maintain mailing list and update e-mail list.
  - b. Maintain membership list.
    1. Set up and maintain a membership database
  - c. Record minutes and distribute them to members.
  - d. Keep records and materials important to MMN, including historical documents.
  - e. Compile and forward a summary of the year's events to the Historian.
  - f. Serve as Secretary of the Minority Men's Network Educational Foundation.
  
5. Treasurer of the MMN shall:
  - a. Work with President to develop the budget.
  - b. Collect dues and report financial status at MMN meetings.
  - c. Serve as Treasurer of the Minority Men's Network Educational Foundation.
  - d. Serve as the Development Committee Chair
  - e. Coordinate the efforts of the Finance Committee
  - f. Report Development Committee's fund raising activities

6. Program Committee Chair shall:
  - a. Coordinate the efforts of the Program Committee.
  - b. Select at least three representatives from volunteers or solicited members.
  
7. Communications and Public Relations Officer
  - a. Set up and maintain the social media presence of the MMN and the Educational Foundation.
  - b. Put together a public response to official questions posed to the MMN.
  - c. Act as a community liaison to distribute the official position of the MMN on community statements
  - d. Send out notices and updates about events to membership

### **C. REMOVAL FROM OFFICE**

Officers may be removed for valid cause by a two-thirds majority vote of the Executive Board or by a two-thirds vote of the MMN membership present at a regular meeting. Cause shall include but not be limited to the following: Failure to attend two of four quarterly Board meetings without approval of the President or his designee.

## **ARTICLE V. STANDING AND AD-HOC COMMITTEES**

### **A. MEMBERSHIP**

The Committee Chair will select members of committees from MMN volunteers, solicited members or non-members.

### **B. COMMITTEES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Development Committee shall:
  - a. Plan fund raising activities.
  - b. Conduct approved fund raising activities.
  
2. Program Committee shall:
  - a. Plan the monthly programs including new membership efforts.
  - b. Arrange meeting places.
  - c. Coordinate outside speakers.
  - d. Send thank you notes to guest speakers who present to MMN meetings.
  
4. Civic Action Committee shall
  - a. Provide a mechanism for the MMN to disseminate information to the community concerning public/city events
  - b. Work with the Public Relations Officer to come up with statements from the MMN in response to current events
  - c. Organize MMN involvement in community activities/events

5. Ad Hoc Committees shall:
  - a. Be established as needed to investigate key issues and concerns of the organization and make recommendations to the membership-at-large. The Executive Board will select the Chair.
  - b. Be composed of regular members of MMN and have voting privileges.
  - c. Solicit nonmembers to serve in an advisory capacity.
  - d. Consist of not less than three members.
  - e. Have no authority to represent the organization unless specifically granted by the Executive Board.
  - f. Make recommendations to the membership as a whole for vote, unless time constraints prohibit such action. If this is the case, the Executive board will take action on the recommendations.

## **ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS**

- A. General membership meetings will be held monthly, except July and August, usually on the second Tuesday of each month. These meetings are open to members and the general Columbia, MO community.
- B. The Executive Board may call special meetings as the need exists. Special meetings may also be called upon the request of three or more MMN members.
- C. Members present at a regular or officially called meeting will constitute a quorum for conducting official business.
- D. Executive Board has the authority to conduct any business relevant to the purpose of MMN.

**ARTICLE VII.  
AMENDMENTS**

A two-thirds vote of members present may ratify amendments to the Bylaws at any meeting, provided the Executive Board gives notice of proposed amendments to members in writing at least two weeks before voting.

**Amendments from 2008**

After consultation with the Executive Board the Bylaws Committee recommends that the office of Secretary/Treasurer of the Network be split into separate offices for 2009. These changes will be part of the 2008 election ballot.

**Amendments 10/2018**

\*Adding the office of the Public Relations Officer to the Executive Committee.

\*Merging the offices of the Secretary and Treasurer of the MMN and the MMN Educational Foundation so that a single person may serve in each office for both groups, respectfully.

\*Officially separating the officer positions of the Secretary and the Treasurer.

**Amendments 11/2018**

\*Added the Civic Action Committee to the list of standing committees.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the Board of Directors on this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,  
20\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Steve Calloway, President – Minority Men’s Network

\_\_\_\_\_  
ATTEST: Alvin Cobbins, Secretary – Minority Men’s Network