

BLS BYLAWS

ARTICLE I- NAME

1. This organization shall be known as the Better Living for Seniors Consortium of Pinellas County, Florida, hereafter known as BLS.
2. The BLS Consortium is affiliated with the Area Agency on Aging of Pasco-Pinellas, Inc. (AAAPP) and operates in a manner consistent with policies and procedures of the AAA.

ARTICLE II-MISSION

The mission of BLS is to promote continuing service excellence to seniors through proactive, visionary and ethical leadership in networking, education and collaboration.

ARTICLE III-GOALS

The goals of BLS shall be to engage in such programs and activities as follows:

1. To improve communication and collaboration among service providers by conducting group meetings, educational seminars and joint programs, and by distributing a newsletter.
2. To obtain the interest and support of businesses, government agencies, non-profit organizations, educational institutions and private citizens by requesting their participation in BLS activities.
3. To advocate for the quality and availability of services for seniors.
4. To promote relationships and networking between private sector and public sector organizations serving elders in Pinellas County, Florida.
5. To increase the awareness of the services and resources offered by the Senior Helpline, an Information and Assistance program of AAAPP.
6. To educate the community about cultural diversity.

ARTICLE IV-MEMBERSHIP

1. The membership of BLS shall be open to all government organizations, non-profit agencies, private agencies, businesses, educational institutions, and individuals who are committed to improving the quality and availability of services to seniors.
2. Any person desiring to become a member of BLS shall make written application upon such form as the Board of Directors may prescribe and include the payment of annual membership dues.
3. Membership includes voting privileges, BLS notices, newsletters and any other items approved by the Board of Directors.
4. Any member's dues that are 45 days past due will have their membership terminated.
5. Membership may also be terminated due to conduct inconsistent with the standards, mission, and goals of BLS and the AAA by a 2/3 vote of the Board of Directors.
6. Each member in good standing shall be entitled to one vote. No more than one member from any company, organization, etc. shall hold elected office.

ARTICLE V -DUES AND CHARGES

1. The annual dues shall be fixed annually by the Board of Directors.
2. There shall be no charge for the BLS meetings. Members and guests may be responsible to pay for refreshments, meals and activities.

ARTICLE VI-MEETINGS

All meetings of BLS shall be open to the public.

1. Business Meetings: The BLS Consortium meetings are to be held in Pinellas County, Florida on the second Friday of February, May, August, and November at a time and place to be determined by the standing committee responsible for arrangements or at such other times that may be convenient. The annual meeting of the BLS Consortium shall be held at the November BLS meeting. The purpose of each meeting shall be to share current information and review business matters of BLS.
2. Committee Meetings: Committee meetings will be held as designated by the Chair of the committee at a time and place to be determined by the Chair and/or committee.
3. Notice of Meetings: Written notice of quarterly Consortium meetings shall be mailed to all members of BLS at least ten days in advance. Such notification shall include the place, day and hour of the meeting. Written notice of Committee meetings shall be faxed, e-mailed or mailed to all members of the committee prior to the date.
4. Voting: All matters coming for a vote, shall be decided by a majority vote of BLS members present.

ARTICLE VII -BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. The policy-making body of BLS shall be known as the Board of Directors. Issues which directly affect the structure, function or mission of BLS will be under the jurisdiction of the Board of Directors plus AAA representatives.
2. The Board of Directors shall consist of the currently elected officers, Immediate Past President, Chairs of the Standing Committees, two Directors-at-Large and AAA Liaison.
3. Any member in good standing who has been active in BLS for a period of at least one year may be considered for an elected position on the Board of Directors.
3. Any member in good standing may be considered for election as Director-at-Large but may not be an Officer or a Chair of a Standing Committee concurrently.
3. The Executive Committee shall consist of the currently elected Officers, Immediate Past President and AAA Liaison. The Executive Committee shall provide general supervision of the affairs of the Board of Directors, and is authorized to act on behalf of the Board of Directors, between regular meetings of the Board of Directors. The Executive Committee shall meet at the discretion of the President.
6. Directors shall serve a term of one year commencing January 1 through December 31.
7. The Board of Directors shall hold at least four meetings annually at such time and place as determined by the President of the Board. Written notice of Board meetings shall be faxed, e-mailed or mailed to Board members prior to the meeting date. Special meetings may be called by any voting member of the Board if deemed necessary and may be held by telephone. Written notice of Special meetings shall be faxed, e-mailed or mailed to Board members prior to the date. Only business matters specified in the notice of the special meeting shall be discussed.
8. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the voting members of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VIII-OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

1. Officers: The officers of BLS shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Immediate Past President. Treasurer responsibilities shall be handled by the AAAPP. Each officer shall be a Director of BLS during the term of office.
2. Election: Officers and Directors-at-Large shall be elected by the membership at the November annual meeting wherein the nominees will have the opportunity to present their qualifications. Voting shall be by written ballot. Officers and Directors-at-Large shall take office January 1 and shall serve for a term of one year or until their successors are elected.
3. Nominations: A Nominating Committee shall be responsible for proposing a slate of nominees for office by regular

mail prior to the November annual meeting. The Chair of the Nominating Committee will be the Immediate Past President whose duty it will be to oversee the functioning of the committee.

4. Vacancies: When a removal or resignation of an Officer occurs, it will become effective immediately upon notification to the Board of Directors and a vacancy will be deemed to exist. Such vacancy shall be filled by an individual selected by a majority of the Board of Directors. The selected individual shall serve for the unexpired term of the predecessor in office.
5. Removal: Any Officer or Director-at-Large may be removed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors.
6. An officer of BLS may not serve as a Chair of any standing committee and must have been a member in good standing for at least one year.

ARTICLE IX-POWERS AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS

1. President: The President will preside at all Board of Directors and BLS Consortium meetings, supervise, monitor and coordinate all business and affairs of BLS, and shall have the power and authority to perform all other duties as may from time to time be assigned to the President by the Board of Directors. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all BLS committees except the nominating committee.
2. Vice-President: The Vice-President shall serve in the absence of the President, and shall exercise such power and authority to perform such duties as may from time to time be assigned by the Board.
3. Secretary: The Secretary shall be responsible for the preparation and distribution of the minutes of the Board and BLS Consortium meetings to the members in a timely fashion; shall serve notices of meetings of the Board and the BLS Consortium; maintain a book of minutes; and shall exercise such power and authority to perform such duties as may from time to time be assigned by the Board.
4. Treasurer: The Treasurer shall be responsible for budget development, financial reports, and shall coordinate financial matters with the AAA staff liaison. The Treasurer shall present the books to the AAA accountant for review once each year. The Treasurer shall exercise such power and authority, and perform such duties, as may from time to time be assigned by the Board of Directors.
5. Immediate Past President: The Immediate Past President shall chair the Nominating Committee, select committee members and shall exercise such power and authority to perform such duties as may from time to time be assigned by the Board.

ARTICLE X -NEWSLETTER EDITOR

The Editor of the newsletter, currently called the BLS Bugle will be a BLS member in good standing for at least one year, will be a member of the Public Relations/Publications Committee and appointed by that committee subject to the approval of the Board of Directors and will attend Board of Directors meetings in a nonvoting capacity.

ARTICLE XI-COMMITTEES

1. Standing Committees shall be established by the Board of Directors. Current committees are Membership, PAN (Public Education-Advocacy-Networking), Partners in Care, and Information & Assistance (I& A), Public Relations/Publications. Chairs of standing committees shall be elected for a one-year term by the membership of such committees and shall serve on the Board of Directors.
2. Any Chair of a Committee may be removed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors.
3. The Nominating Committee shall consist of three members: the Immediate Past President who shall be the Chair and two members selected by the Chair from the general membership who do not currently hold office.
4. Special (ad-hoc) Committees may be established by the President from time to time when necessary and shall exist for such time as the President shall determine. The Chair shall be appointed by the President. A Vice Chair and a Secretary may be appointed by the Chair of the Committee.
5. Each standing Committee shall also elect a Vice Chair and a Secretary, to serve a one year term. If the Chair of a Standing Committee is unable to attend a regular or special meeting of the Board of Directors, the Vice Chair or the

Secretary, as determined by the Chair, shall attend on behalf of the Chair and shall have the right to vote in the place of the Committee Chair.

ARTICLE XII-FINANCE

1. The fiscal year of BLS shall begin on January 1st and end on December 31st of each year.
2. All funds received by BLS shall be credited to BLS and placed in depositories held by Area Agency on Aging of Pasco-Pinellas, Inc.
3. BLS shall raise and/or receive funds in accordance with the policies established by the Board of Directors. Such policies shall be consistent with policies of the Area Agency on Aging of Pasco-Pinellas, Inc.

ARTICLE XIII-AMENDMENTS

Bylaws should be reviewed annually. These bylaws may be amended at any meeting of BLS Consortium provided that the Board of Directors has approved such amendments and written notice of the proposed action is mailed to each member at least 20 days preceding the meeting at which the proposed changes are to be approved by a vote of the members.