

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 AAAPP.

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 promote relationships and networking between private sector and public sector organizations serving elders in Pinellas County, Florida.
2. To promote 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 improve communication and collaboration among service providers by conducting networking events, educational seminars, joint programs, and by producing a newsletter.
5. To increase the awareness of the services and resources offered by the Helpline, an Information and Assistance program of AAAPP.

ARTICLE IV-MEMBERSHIP

1. The membership of BLS shall be open to all members of 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. Each member in good standing shall be entitled to one vote, 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/or the AAAPP by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

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 members at BLS meetings; however, donations may be requested from BLS members. Non-members may be charged a fee.

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 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: Notice of quarterly Consortium meetings shall be sent to all members of BLS in advance of the meeting. Such notifications shall include the place, day and hour of the meeting. Notice of committee meetings shall be sent to all members of the committee in advance of the meeting. All committee meetings and BLS Consortiums will be posted on the BLS Networking calendar on the BLS Website.

Voting: All matters coming for a vote shall be decided by a majority vote of BLS members who cast a vote.

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 AAAPP Liaison/Treasurer.
2. The Board of Directors shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Immediate Past President, two Members-at-Large, the AAAPP Liaison/Treasurer and the Chairs of the Standing Committees.
3. Any member in good standing who has been active in BLS for at least the one year prior to nomination may be considered for an elected position on the Board of Directors. The President, Vice-President, Secretary, Immediate Past President or Members-at-Large may not serve as a Chair or Vice-chair of any standing committee concurrently. No more than one member from any company or organization shall hold elected office.
4. The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Immediate Past President and AAAPP Liaison/Treasurer. (This excludes the Members-at-Large, the committee chairs and committee vice-chairs.) 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.
5. Directors shall serve a term of two years commencing January 1 through December 31. All Directors are expected to attend the majority of Board meetings and Consortiums.
6. The Board of Directors shall hold at least four meetings annually at such time and place as determined by the President of the Board. Notice of Board meetings shall be sent to Board members prior to the meeting date. Special meetings may be called by any voting member of the Board if deemed necessary and the meeting may be conducted by any reasonable means. Votes may be collected via any reasonable means. Notice of Special meetings shall be sent to Board members prior to the date. Only business matters specified in the notice of the special meeting shall be discussed.
7. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the voting members of the Board of Directors who are present or responding.

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 Liaison. Each officer shall be a Director of BLS during the term of office.
2. Nominations/Elections: The Immediate Past President shall be the Chair of the Elections Committee. They will

be responsible for Nominations and Elections of BLS officers in a timely manner so that the new BLS Board can be announced at the November Consortium. The Chair of the Elections Committee shall appoint other BLS members to assist with these duties. BLS members will be asked if they would like to run for office. After the committee determines the nominees who meet the technical qualifications of a BLS Board member as stated in this document, BLS members will be asked to vote. A member of the Elections Committee will announce the results of the voting at the November Consortium. Officers and Members-at-Large shall take office January 1 and shall serve for a term of two years or until their successors are elected.

3. 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.
4. Removal: Any Officer or Member-at-Large may be removed by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

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, in concert with the Board, will establish budgetary guidelines for annual spending for BLS Committees. 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 and/or the President.
3. Secretary: The Secretary shall be responsible for the preparation and distribution of the minutes of the Board to the members in a timely fashion; shall serve notices of meetings of the Board and shall exercise such power and authority to perform such duties as may from time to time be assigned by the Board.
4. Treasurer/AAAPP Liaison: The AAAPP Liaison shall act as the BLS Treasurer and shall be responsible for financial reports for the BLS Board. The AAAPP Liaison 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 Elections 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.
6. Members-At-Large: The Members-at-Large shall serve in the absence of other board member positions and shall exercise such power and authority to perform such duties as may from time to time be assigned by the board or President. Members-at-Large will help with consortiums if asked by the presenting committee or at other meetings when help is needed.

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 Communications Committee and appointed by that committee subject to the approval of the Board of Directors and will attend Board of Directors meetings in a non-voting capacity.

ARTICLE XI-COMMITTEES

1. Standing Committees shall be established by the Board of Directors and may change from time to time. 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. Committee chairs are expected to attend the majority of their committee meetings, Board meetings and Consortiums.
2. Each standing Committee shall also elect a Vice Chair and (if appropriate as determined by each Committee

Chair) 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.

3. Any Chair of a Committee may be removed by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.
4. The Election Committee shall consist of at least three members: the Immediate Past President who shall be the Chair and at least two or more members selected by the Chair.
5. 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.

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. The Board of Directors must approve any such amendments prior to a BLS membership vote. Notice of the proposed action must be provided to each member prior to the vote. These bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of BLS members who cast a vote. Voting shall take place by any reasonable means.