

BYLAWS
OF THE
OLD SETTLERS REUNION ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE I

Purpose

Section 1. The purpose of this organization, the Old Settlers' Reunion Association (O.S.R.A.), is to continue the preservation and restoration of the history and heritage of Black people in Isabella, Mecosta, and Montcalm counties.

Section 2. To act as a liaison between the aforesaid counties and any restoration or preservation of Black historical affects, sites, etc., and may be the recipient of any funds (County, State, or Federal) for such preservation and/or restoration.

Section 3. To establish a scholarship to be awarded to worthy academic students who are direct descendants of the old settlers of said counties. Old Settlers' to be defined as Black immigrant who made his/her home in Isabella, Mecosta, and Montcalm counties in the eighteen hundreds (1800's).

ARTICLE II

Members

Section 1. At age eighteen, and upon registering, any direct descendant shall be eligible for active membership in the O.S.R.A., and enjoy all membership privileges of making motions, of voting, of holding office, and receiving the quarterly newsletter, as long as their annual membership dues are paid.

Section 2. Associate membership to the O.S.R.A. is available to those other than direct descendants providing such membership be proposed by one member and seconded by another member of the O.S.R.A.. Voting upon the admission shall take place at the next regular meeting thereafter. A two-thirds vote shall elect to membership. A person so elected shall be declared a member of the O.S.R.A. upon payment of the initiation fee, and the annual dues for the first year, but will not be able to serve as an officer of the association.

Section 3. The initiation fee shall be one dollar. The annual membership dues shall be Five dollars, payable in advance on or before August 31 of each year. The Treasurer shall notify member households three months in arrears, and those whose dues are not paid within thirty days thereafter shall lose their privilege of attending meetings, and of making motions.

Section 4. Upon the signed recommendation of one member, seconded by another member, and by a three-fourth vote by ballot at the annual meeting, honorary membership may be conferred upon a candidate who shall have rendered notable service to the O.S.R.A. An honorary member shall have none of the obligations of membership in the O.S.R.A., but shall be entitled to all the privileges except those of making motions, of voting, and of holding office.

ARTICLE III

Trustees

Section 1. Trustees shall be direct descendants of the old settlers of Isabella, Mecosta, and Montcalm counties. The Trustee board shall consist of nine members. It is preferred that three of the nine board members be from cities, towns or villages of the aforesaid counties (one from each county)

Section 2. There shall be four officers to the Trustee board: Chairperson; Vice-Chairperson; Treasurer; and, Secretary. Officers shall be elected by ballot to serve for one year or until their successors are elected, and their term of office shall begin at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected .

Section 3. Trustee board members shall serve staggered terms of one, two, and three years. Three new Trustees shall be elected annually to serve a three year term, providing Trustees at three levels of experience.

Section 4. Elections for Trustees shall take place at the annual meeting. Direct descendants and associate members are eligible to vote if their membership dues have been paid.

Section 5. Trustee board members shall be persons who have interest and time to serve.

Section 6. Vacancies due to resignation, incapacity, death, etc., shall be appointed by the board to serve that office for the remaining term.

Section 7. There shall be two (2) alternate board members to serve two (2) year terms. They should attend all regular meeting to stay abreast of current issues. They shall serve on any standing of special committees. Election of Alternates shall be everyother year at the Annual Meeting and, will serve a two-year term..

ARTICLE IV

Meetings

Section 1. The regular meetings of the O.S.R.A. Trustee board shall be held on the third Saturday of every other month from September to August.

Section 2. The regular meeting in August shall be known as the annual meeting will be the third Sunday and, shall be for the purpose of electing officers, receiving reports of officers and committees, and for any other business that may arise.

Section 3. The Chairperson (or, the Vice-Chairperson in the absents of the Chairperson) shall call the.
meeting to order

Section 4. A Trustee shall be removed from the board if they miss three consecutive meetings, but shall retain all other membership privileges as set fourth in ARTICLE II.

Section 5. A quorum will consist of five members.

ARTICLE V

Duties of Officers

Section 1. Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson shall call all meetings: select slate of Trustees for election, and act as spokesperson for the organization.

Section 2. Secretary shall issue all notices of meeting, subject to Chair's request, send out notices of said meeting(s), record the minutes to meetings, file annual reports with State and any communications as needed by board. File any and or all documents or historical data with State archives, with a copy placed in a chosen bank or depository selected by Trustees.

Section 3. Treasurer shall collect any and or all moneys allocated to organization for Scholarship fund, restoration purposes, fund raisers, etc.. Collect any donations, file said moneys (donations etc.) in aforesaid depository or bank. Treasurer shall not hold any moneys designated for the purpose of running the Annual Picnic. That money shall be held by the designated city or community in charge of the Annual Picnic.

Section 4. Board shall mail a newsletter to O.S.R.A. members quarterly.

ARTICLE VI

Depository

Section 1. Bank and or depository shall be a financial institution chosen by the board. Scholarship funds will be deposited in said financial institution.

Section 2. A safety diposit box shall be rented in said bank for documents, records, etc.. Two keys to be held by the board; one by the Chairperson and, one by a designated member of the board.

Section 3. Audits may be made annually by authorized auditor.

ARTICLE VII

Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order the organization may adopt.

ARTICLE VIII

Amendment of Bylaws

These bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the O.S.R.A. by a two-thirds vote, provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing at the previous regular meeting.

ARTICLE IX
Dissolution

Section 1. Upon dissolution of the Old Settlers' Reunion Association (O.S.R.A.), all moneys collected or banked under said name shall be distributed to educational facilities designated by the board with approval (majority vote) from annual meeting attendees.

These Bylaws are adopted on this _____ day of _____, 200__

Board Member Signatures:

Chairperson	_____
Assistant Chair	_____
Secretary	_____
Treasurer	_____
Trustee	_____
Trustee	_____
Trustee	_____
Trustee	_____
Trustee	_____
Alternate	_____
Alternate	_____

Amended Bylaws 5/3/2003. Text change to Article III, Section 1. To address the absents of Trustees residing in Montcalm county.