

**THE AUGUSTA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.**  
**Constitution and By-Laws**

**CONSTITUTION**

**ARTICLE I:** The name of this organization shall be the Augusta Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. hereinafter referred to as the Society.

**ARTICLE II:**

**Section 1:** This Society is organized solely as a charitable, scientific, and educational society within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law. None of its assets shall inure to the pecuniary gain or profit of any individual.

**Section 2:** Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, this Society shall not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code of 1986 or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law.

**Section 3:** In the event of dissolution, the residual assets of the organization will be turned over to one or more organizations which themselves are exempt as organizations described in sections 501(c)(3) and 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or corresponding sections of any prior or future Internal Revenue Code, or to the Federal, State, or local government by exclusive public purpose as may be recommended by the Board of Directors and approved by the membership.

**ARTICLE III: Membership:**

**Section 1:** General provisions: Membership in the Society will be divided into four classes.

- a. Single adult
- b. Family, parent(s) and all children
- c. Juniors(ages 8 to 18 unaccompanied)
- d. Honorary life membership: Shall be awarded to an individual who is considered by the active membership to have contributed outstanding service or knowledge to the field of lapidary, and to this Society, who has been nominated, seconded and approved by a two thirds majority vote of the members present. The recipient shall enjoy all the privileges of an active member, but not be required to pay dues.

**Section 2:** Membership in the Society will be open to all individuals expressing interest in the hobby, who are willing to abide by the Constitution and By-Laws of said Society, and who maintain active membership through prompt payment of dues.

**ARTICLE IV: Officers and Directors:**

**Section 1:** The executive officers of the Society shall be the President, Vice President(s), Secretary(ies), Treasurer, and the Bulletin Editor.

**Section 2:** The Board of Directors, hereinafter called the Board, shall be composed of the executive officers, committee chairpersons, and the last past President.

**Section 3:** The Board shall constitute the governing body of the Society with the consent of the members.

**ARTICLE V: Voting:**

**Section 1:** Each active member, in good standing, shall be entitled to one vote, and the privilege of holding office. The President shall vote only in case of a tie, but shall have the privilege of voting at the general election of officers and directors.

**Section 2:** When called upon to vote, the general membership may vote either by absentee ballot, or in person at the general meeting in which the vote is required.

**Section 3:** Election of officers shall be made by secret ballot, unless there are no nominations from the floor and the slate as presented is not contested, in which case a motion may be made, seconded, and passed by unanimous vote, to have the secretary cast the ballot in favor of the presented slate.

**Section 4:** Term of office shall be two consecutive years. No officer, with the exception of the Editor, shall hold the same office for more than two consecutive terms by general election. However, should the need for the continuance of the Society dictate, any officer may volunteer to remain in office for one additional term.

**Section 5:** The Editor shall be elected for a two-year term, and one person may hold this office for any number of elected terms.

**ARTICLE VI: Committees:** Chairpersons to head committees will be appointed by the President elect within one month following the annual election of officers, with said committees to take office on January 1.

**Section 1:** Committee heads shall be requested to select their committees, and to present a list of the committee members to the President at the January meeting.

**Section 2:** Committees shall consist of a Sergeant-at-Arms, Refreshments, Field Trip and Education (optional). Additional committees may be appointed as the needs of the Society dictate.

**ARTICLE VII: Elections:**

**Section 1:** The executive officers shall be elected at the first regular meeting in November.

**Section 2:** Officers shall be formally installed during the Christmas party in December, and take office on January 1.

**ARTICLE VIII: Meetings:**

**Section 1:** The regular meeting of the Society shall be on the third Friday of each month, at such time and place as shall be announced at the preceding meeting, or as set forth in notice of such meeting.

**Section 2:** A field trip shall be scheduled for the Saturday of the week following the meeting. Field trips may be rescheduled to the following week at the discretion of the chairperson.

**Section 3:** Special meetings may be called at anytime by the President, a majority of the Board, or be any three eligible members at large.

**Section 4:** The Board shall meet as often as deemed necessary, at the call of the President, or a majority of the Board. The Board shall be notified of such meeting at least twenty-four hours in advance of the time of the meeting.

**Section 5: The Society shall have an Annual Meeting, to be held at the first regular meeting in January.**

**ARTICLE IX: Amendments to the Constitution, or to the By-Laws of the Society, after being approved by the Board, must be placed in writing, and sent out in such writing, to all members at least ten working days in advance of the meeting of the Society at which they will be voted on. Such amendments shall become effective immediately, if carried by a majority vote of two thirds of the general members responding within the time frame announced at the time of the call to vote.**

**ARTICLE X: Parliamentary Authority:  
The rules contained in "Robert's Rules of Order" shall govern the Society in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with the Constitution and By-Laws of said Society.**

**End of CONSTITUTION**

