

# History and By Laws for LHSPAA

## History

In 1874 an unknown northern philanthropist granted the property on which the “Lincoln School” was erected for the purpose of education African American children in Sumter. The school was the first public school for Blacks in Sumter. The Rev. L.E. Lowery was listed as the principal and teacher for the males and Miss. M.E. Scott was the teacher for the females. The school was a frame cottage, which contained four rooms entering into a pass way. In 1888, Reverend I.B. Smith became the 1<sup>st</sup> principal to operate under city supervision. The building was enlarged in 1894, and a new two-story wooden structure was erected in 1904. Between 1910 and 1937 under the leadership of Mr. Charles E. Lawson the nucleus of the present facility was erected, and it was during this time period 1924-25, that Rosenwald funds were used in the construction of both the school facility and the shop. The 12<sup>th</sup> grade was added to the school under the tenure of Mr. J.H. Kilgore in 1947. The school was admitted to the Southern Association of Colleges and schools in 1952 and was one of the few black high schools belonging to the association.

During the 1950’s the school acquired an additional twenty classrooms, a cafeteria, a gymnasium, a library, and a band room. The last graduating class under the name of Lincoln High School was the class of 1969. The name of the school was changed to Sumter High School and the last class to graduate from the building graduated under the name of Sumter High School in 1970.

In 1971 two high schools in the city merged in order to facilitate racial desegregation. The Lincoln building housed all sophomores of Sumter High School until 1979. The freshmen class joined the sophomores in the building in 1980, and the two classes occupied the building until 1983.

The building was sold and deeded to the County in 1983. The County sold the building in 1984 to St. Jude Central High School. The building was reacquired by the County and sold to Trinity United Methodist Church.

## Principals

Rev. I.E. Lowery .....	1874-1876
Rev. I.B. Smith .....	1888-1889
Mr. J.W. Brown .....	1889-1890
Mr. J.C. Whittaker .....	1890-1894
Miss Martha Savage .....	(Acting) 1894
Mr. H. Pearson .....	1894-1895
Mr. JC. Whittaker .....	1895-1900
Mr. W.T. Andrews .....	1900-1904
Mr. Ezekiel Jones .....	1904-1910
Mr. Charles Lawson .....	1910-1947
Mr. J.H. Kilgo .....	1947-1966
Mr. James Stover .....	1966-1967
Dr. J. Earl Vaughn .....	1968-1969

School Colors .....

**Blue and Gold**

School Mascot .....

**The Lincoln Bulldog**

The Mascot was designed by former Lincoln art instructor, Dr. Leo Twiggs in the 1950’s. Dr. Twiggs is now recognized as one of South Carolina’s most renowned artist. The Lincoln bulldog is signed by Dr. Twiggs and therefore makes it both valuable and collectable. It has a retro look that is representative of the period during which it was designed. In 2006 Dr. Twiggs provided the Lincoln High School Alumni Association with the signed copies of the original bulldog design.

# **Lincoln High School Alumni Association**

## **Founded 2006**

### **The Purpose of LHSAA**

The LHSAA is organized to preserve the history and legacy of Lincoln High School and promote programs and activities related to the school and the community.

### **The Lincoln High School Alumni Association (LHSAA)**

If you are a graduate, attended, or were associated with Lincoln High School, you should become a member of the Lincoln High School Alumni Association.

### **Why Join LHSAA?**

Membership not only provides you with publications, programs and services but you will become a partner in ensuring that the Lincoln past is remembered and valued. Your membership will perpetuate the memory of the school; and highlight the many accomplishments of the school and the students that passed through its doors.

### **Who Can Join?**

Former students, former teachers, community members, and institutional subscribers such as churches, libraries, museums, fraternities and sororities should join and help keep the history of Lincoln alive.

### **Member Benefits**

As an alumni member you will receive four issues of the Lincoln Quarterly newsletter, an annual meeting invitation, an alumni directory, advance notice of programs, invitations to special events and a membership card. (See future plans for additional benefits.)

### **Future Plans**

The Lincoln High School Alumni Association has negotiated on a 40 year lease to obtain the Lincoln High School building for the purpose of a Lincoln High School Museum, an alumni office, ad conference facility. Once completed, member benefits will include use of the facility, and admission to the museum.

**By-Laws of the Lincoln High School**  
*Preservation Society/Lincoln High School Alumni Association*  
*Sumter, South Carolina*

These By-laws shall govern the administration and activities for this organization and Robert Rules of Order shall govern the proceedings of this organization for all matters that arise and are not herein provided for.

**PREAMBLE**

The Board of Directors for the Lincoln High School Preservation Society (“the Society”) recognizes the existing special relationship between the Lincoln High School Preservation Society and the alumni of Lincoln High School. Furthermore, the Board for Directors recognized the importance of the Lincoln High School Alumni Association in assisting the fundraising, maintain and raising the stature of the “Society” nationwide, and supporting and carrying out the preservation efforts for the “Society.” Therefore, the “Society” shall be recognized as the parent organization for the Lincoln High School Alumni Association. (“The Association”)

**AUTHORITY**

The Lincoln High School Alumni Association is formed under the charter of the Lincoln High School Preservation Society; therefore the “Association” is not a separately incorporated entity. The “Association” shall operate under the authority of the Lincoln High School Preservation Society and may not separately seek tax exempt status. The Association shall operate under the By-laws of the Lincoln High school Preservation Society. The Fiscal year of the Lincoln High School Preservation Society/ Lincoln High School Alumni Association shall run from Jan 1, through December 31, for the following calendar year.

**ARTICLE I** 11/07

**Name, Officers, and Location**

**Section 1**

Name and Nature. The name of this organization shall be The Lincoln High School Preservation Society/Lincoln High School Alumni Association. A private nonprofit organization incorporated in the State of South Carolina, henceforth referred to as the Society or Association.

**Section 2**

Area. The primary area of benefit shall be Sumter, South Carolina; however, other communities may be supported by the organization.

**Section 3**

Principal Office. The principal office of the Association shall be located at 23 Council Street Sumter, South Carolina. However, the office may be located where the Board of Directors considers it to be most beneficial.

**Section 4**

Other Offices. The organization may have offices at such other places in South Carolina or outside the State of South Carolina as the board of Directors may designate or as the affairs for the corporation may require from time to time.

**Section 5**

Eleemosynary Status. This organization shall be an eleemosynary corporation chartered by the State of South Carolina and all contributions thereto shall be tax deductible as approved by the Exempt Organization Division of the Internal Revenue Code.

## Purposes

### Section 1

Purposes. All of the purposes of the Society/Association are consistent with Internal Revenue Service Section Code 501 (c) (3). The Society/Association is organized exclusively for charitable, educational and scientific purposes- as defined in Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code- to support optimum development of the Lincoln High School Preservation Society/Lincoln High School Alumni Association. These purposes are:

- A. To preserve, advance, and disseminate knowledge of the history of Lincoln High School, African American schools, education, and history;
- B. To foster elevation in the levels of education, history, cultural, literacy, business, and the quality of life;
- C. To further the interests and growth of alumni of Lincoln High school by providing a network of communication among its members and foster a spirit of cooperation and friendship among its members for the greater good of the community an society.
- D. To promote leadership development for immediate and long term needs; To facilitate the growth and continuation for informed, active, and productive members;

To carry out the purposes set forth above exclusively for the benefit of and in furtherance of the tax exempt purposes of Lincoln High School Preservation Society/Lincoln High School Alumni Association, PROVIDED, however, that all the aforesaid purposes an activities shall be limited to the scope and intent of Section 501 (c) (3) for the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended.

Notwithstanding any other provisions for these articles, the purposes for which the Society/Association is organized are exclusively religious, charitable, scientific, literacy, and educational within the meaning of 501 (c) (3) of Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of these articles, this organization shall not carry on any activities no permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law.

Upon dissolution of the Association, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or the corresponding provision of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to nonprofit organizations in Sumter, SC which are organized and operated for such purposes. No funds shall accrue or inure to the benefit of any individual member of the Board of Directors or other member of the organization.

## **Section 2**

Limitations. No part of the net earnings of the Lincoln High School Preservation Society/Lincoln High School Alumni Association shall inure (be modified) to the benefit of, or be distributed to, its directors, officers, or other private persons, except that the Society/Association shall be authorized to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and make payments and distributions in furtherance previously set forth.

No substantial part of the activities of the Society/Association shall be carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Society/Association shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing of or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

Upon the dissolution of the Society/Association, the directors shall, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all liabilities of the Society/Association, dispose of all assets of the Society/Association exclusively to charitable, educational, religious, or scientific organizations that shall at the time qualify as exempt organizations under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code as the same now exists or as it may hereafter be amended.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of these bylaws, the Society/Association shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code as the same now exists or as it may hereafter be amended.

**ARTICLE III** 11/07

## **Members**

The Lincoln High School Preservation Society/Alumni Association shall have a general membership base. The organization shall be governed by a Board of Directors elected by the general membership at the annual membership meeting in December. Members of the Lincoln High School Alumni Association shall be defined as graduates, attendees, and friends. Active members will be assessed a membership fee and will be afforded full voting and participation privileges. Only members shall hold office in the organization. The annual membership fee will be determined by the board and approved by the general membership.

**ARTICLE IV** 11/07

## **Board of Directors**

### **Section 1**

General Powers. The government of the organization shall be vested in a Board of Directors, who shall be elected in the manner provided by the by-laws. The business and affairs of the Society/Association shall be managed by its Board of Directors. The Board will have the authority to hire all staff members and to execute the daily and other affairs of the Society/Association. The Board shall consider and approve a budget for each fiscal year. The Board of Directors shall have general control of the affairs, funds and property of the organization and shall determine policy and establish guidelines for the effective conduct of the business affairs of the Society/Association.

## **Section 2**

Number, Terms and Qualifications. The number of directors constituting the Board of Directors shall not be less than eleven (1) or more than (21) members, but such number may be increased or decreased by amendment to these By-laws in the manner set forth in Article VIII. Regular terms of office for directors shall be three years, provided, however, that the regular terms shall be so fixed at the beginning or upon any increase or decrease in the number of directors so that approximately an equal number of regular terms will expire at each annual meeting. Directors may serve two consecutive three year terms and be elected to serve on the board again after a one year absence. Directors shall be elected from among and by members of the organization.

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## **Section 3**

Initial Election. The initial terms shall be staggered. One-third (1/3) of the elected Board Members shall be elected to a three-year term; one-third (1/3) shall be elected to a two-year term; and one-third (1/3) shall be elected to a one-year term. Subsequently, elections shall be held annually for one-third (1/3) of the elected members for three year terms. The Board shall develop and promulgate election rules in advance of annual elections. Votes will be cast in person or by written proxy. A slate of candidates, at least equal in number to the number of vacancies, will be voted on each year. Elections will be determined by a simple majority of votes cast.

## **Section 4**

Appointment of Directors. Except as provided below, newly appointed directors shall take office at the annual meeting of the Board of Directors.

## **Section 5**

Removal. Any Director may be removed from office and/or from the board at any time with cause by a unanimous vote of the board. No Director shall be removed from office or from the Board without due process. The Board shall define what constitutes cause for removal. If any directors are removed, new directors shall be elected by the board and these new board members will take office immediately.

## **Section 6**

Vacancies. Any vacancy occurring in the Board of Directors may be filled by the appointment of a new director by the officers of the Corporation. Appointed Directors shall enjoy the same rights and privileges as elected Directors.

## **Section 7**

### **Meetings**

The Board of Directors shall meet a minimum of six times per year, which includes the annual meeting.

## **Section 8**

### **Duties of officers:**

The Duties of the Officers and the Board shall at a minimum, be as follows:

#### **President of the Board:**

A President of the Board of Directors shall be elected by the membership from their number at the annual meeting of the corporation. The President shall preside at meetings of the Board of Directors and general membership and perform such other duties as may be directed by the Board. The president shall have the power to appoint, with the approval of the board of directors, such committees of this organization as may, in his/her judgment, be necessary and convenient for the achievement of the organization's objectives. The President shall appoint standing committees and chairpersons for such committees. The President shall be an ex –officio member of all committees. The President shall be responsible for the direction and management of the business of the organization and shall see that the orders and resolutions of the Board and general membership on significant events of his/her administration at the annual meeting of the general membership. At the end of his/her term the president shall automatically assume the role of Immediate Past President.

**Vice President:** The vice president (s) shall serve as advisors and assistants to the President and shall assume the duties of the President in the absence, resignation, incapacitation or removal from office of the president. A Vice President under usual circumstances will become the President at the conclusion of the President's term.

#### **Secretary:**

The Secretary shall maintain and assist in the recording and distribution of the minutes, records, and documents, of the organization, as directed by the Board. The duties of the Secretary shall generally align with the responsibilities of a secretary of a corporation.

#### **Treasurer:**

The Treasurer will work with the Budget and finance committee and establish the association budget, provide oversight of contractual agreements, monitor budgets, and establish internal controls for expenditures. The treasurer will provide budget reports, develop written policies and procedures and recommend and secure a bank. In conjunction with the Budget and Finance Committee he/she will also oversee all financial operations and conduct regular in-depth reviews of the association's financial activity, audits, and investment policies.

## **Section 8**

**Compensation.** No compensation shall be paid to directors as such, for regular board service. Nothing herein contained shall be construed to preclude any director from serving the Corporation in any capacity and receiving compensation thereof.

## **Meeting of Directors**

### **Section 1**

Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors LHSPS/LHSAA shall be held during the third week of December each year for the purpose of electing directors of LHSPS/LHSAA and for the transaction of such other business as may be properly brought before the meeting.

### **Section 2**

Regular Meetings. In addition to its Annual Meeting, the Board of Directors may provide by resolution, the time and place for holding additional meetings. At least 48 hours notice must be given prior to a regular meeting.

### **Section 3**

Special Meetings. Special meetings of the Board of Directors shall be called by or at the request of the President or any two directors. Such a meeting shall be held at a place and location as fixed by the person or person calling the meeting. Notices for special meetings must specify the purposes for which the meetings are called.

### **Section 4**

Quorum. A majority of the current Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Board of Directors.

### **Section 5**

Manner of Acting. Except as otherwise provided in these bylaws, the act of the majority of the directors present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Board of Directors.

### **Section 6**

Presumption of Assent. A director of the Association who is present at a meeting of the Board of Directors at which action on any corporate matter is taken shall be presumed to have assented to the action taken unless his contrary vote is recorded or his dissent is otherwise entered in the minutes of the meeting or unless he shall file his written dissent to such action with the person acting as the secretary of the meeting before the adjournment thereof or shall forward such dissent by registered mail to the Secretary of the Society/Association immediately after the adjournment of the meeting. Such right to dissent shall not apply to a director who voted in favor of such action.

### **Section 7**

Informal Action by Directors. Action taken by a majority of the directors without a meeting is never the less board action if written consent to the action in question is signed by all directors and filed with the minutes of the proceeding of the Board, whether done before or after the action so taken.

## **ARTICLE VI** 11/07

### **Executive Committee**

#### **Section 1**

Creation: All members of the Board of Directors who are duly elected by the general membership to serve as officers shall constitute an Executive Committee. Those positions shall consist of the President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, Chaplin, Parliamentarian, and two At-Large positions. All other directors shall be nominated by the board nominating committee, and with approval by the board be presented to the general membership for vote to serve on the board.

#### **Nominating Committee:**

The nominating Committee shall consist of five members elected annually by the organization. The Nominating Committee shall be responsible for developing a slate of candidates for the positions as officers, and Directors of the organization. The President of the organization will serve as an ex-officio member of the nominating committee with non voting rights.

## **ARTICLE VII** 11/07

### **ANNUAL MEETING**

The membership of this organization shall be invited to an annual meeting at a date and time set by the Board of Directors and promulgated to the membership at least thirty days in advance. In addition to any business that will legitimately come before the membership, annual elections for Directors to the Board shall take place at this meeting and an annual report shall be given.

## **ARTICLE VIII** 11/07

### **AMENDMENTS**

These By-laws may not be amended unless such amendments are first approved by a two thirds vote of an official meeting of the Board of Directors. Amendments must be approved by a majority vote of the membership at a meeting or through a special balloting procedure approved by the Board of Directors.

## **ARTICLE I** 11/07

### **RATIFICATION**

After adequate notification, ratification of this version of the By-laws should occur through the acceptance by a majority of those voting. For future ratification of By-Laws, after adequate notification, a majority of those alumni voting in a special balloting will determine ratification.

Ratified by a majority of members voting at the general membership meeting on November 4, 2007.