

**THE CONSTITUTION**  
**of**  
**THE FINGER LAKES FINNS**

**Article I: Name**

This organization is a Finnish American society known as the Finger Lakes Finns.

**Article II: Purpose**

The society is organized to promote cultural and educational appreciation of Finnish heritage and customs, to provide a social setting for enjoying old and new friendships in the Finnish tradition, and to pursue charitable community activities.

**Article III: Fiscal Year**

The fiscal year of the society shall be from January 1 through December 31.

**Article IV: Membership**

Section 1: Membership shall consist of persons of Finnish descent, those married to persons of Finnish descent, and any other persons interested in the work and activities of the society. Membership is contingent on payment of annual dues, which shall be made to the duly elected Treasurer.

Section 2: The annual dues of the society shall be reviewed by the Executive Committee each year and, if, in their opinion, a change is warranted, a request for a motion to that effect shall be presented to the membership at the annual business meeting of the society. The dues, as approved, are payable at that meeting or when a person seeks membership. A set rate of dues shall be established without initiation fees and with no proration for fractions of a membership year, except that new members joining during the months of November and December shall be deemed to have joined for a term including the next full year.

Section 3: The membership year shall be from January 1 to December 31.

Section 4: A list of members shall be maintained. A member whose dues remain unpaid for the current year shall be automatically dropped from the list.

Section 5: Only members in good standing (a member whose dues are up to date) may vote at a meeting.

**Article V: Meetings**

Regular business meetings shall be held monthly with the exception of June and July. An Annual Meeting shall be held in October every year. A quorum shall consist of one quarter or more dues paying members. Special meetings may be called at the discretion of the President

**Article VI: Officers and Executive Committee**

The officers of the society shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 1: The officers shall be elected each year at the Annual Meeting and their term of office shall be from November to October of the following year. No officer shall serve more than three consecutive terms in the same office.

Section 2: An Executive Committee shall be formed and shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, the immediate Past-President and all committee chairs. The Committee may be expanded to include one or more members-at-large elected at the Annual Meeting. The Committee shall assume its duties when the new officers begin their terms. The Committee shall meet at the discretion of the President.

Section 3: The President may appoint committee chairs as needed.

Section 4: An officer absent three consecutive meetings 'without due cause shall be replaced by the Executive Committee.

**Article VII: Disposition of Funds and/or Earnings**

Membership dues, invest earnings, and other sources of revenue are to be used in furtherance of the objectives and purpose of the society, as stated in Article H. No part of the net earnings of the society shall inure to the benefit of any member or officer of the society nor of any private individual (except that reasonable compensation may be paid for services rendered to or for the society). No member nor officer of the society nor any private individual shall be entitled to share in the distribution of any of the assets of the society on dissolution thereof.

### **Article VIII: Dissolution**

In the event of the dissolution of the society, all of its remaining assets shall be distributed to one or more organizations which have qualified for tax exemption under the provisions of the Not-For-Profit Corporation Law for the State of New York. The choice of said distribution is subject to the vote of the membership of the society.

### **Article IX: Amendments and Revisions**

The Constitution and/or By-laws may be amended at any meeting of the society by a majority vote of the members present, provided notice of such action has been given to the membership at least ten (10) days in advance of the meeting.

## **By-Laws**

### **Article I: Officers**

Section 1: The President shall preside at all meetings and appoint all committees the selection of which is not otherwise specified.

Section 2: During the absence, disability, or resignation of the President, it shall be the duty of the Vice President to assume the duties of the President

Section 3: The Secretary shall record the minutes of all meetings and handle all correspondence of the society.

Section 4: The Treasurer shall collect all dues, receive all moneys, and pay all bills of the society. The Treasurer shall keep accurate records and report the status of the assets and financial activities of the society at each regular meeting.

Section 5: In case of vacancy in the offices of Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer, the President may appoint a member in good standing for the remainder of the term of the current year.

### **Article II: Fiscal Year**

An Annual Financial Report shall cover the fiscal year commencing January 1 and ending December 31 and shall be prepared before the end of the first quarter of the following year. This Report shall be reported to the general membership.

### **Article III: Audits**

The Annual Financial Report and underlying accounting records shall be subject to an annual audit. The Executive Board shall appoint three members, none of whom may be an officer, to conduct these audits. The annual audit shall be prepared before the end of the first quarter of the following year and the results reported to the general membership.