

**THE LINCOLN GROUP OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
BY-LAWS**

As amended December 16, 2014

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of the organization shall be The Lincoln Group of the District of Columbia, Inc., hereafter referred to as The Lincoln Group.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization shall be

to study the life and leadership of Abraham Lincoln;
to engage new generations in understanding his dedication to equality and liberty under law and his attitude “with malice toward none, with charity for all;”
to educate about his vision “that government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the earth.”

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership in this organization shall be open to all persons interested in Abraham Lincoln and in the promotion of the objectives for which The Lincoln Group was formed.

Section 2. Membership shall comprise the following classes:

a. Active Members: The title Active Member shall be given to those members who have joined The Lincoln Group and are current in their dues. There are four types of active memberships:

- (1) Regular: Those members living within the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area;
- (2) Subscriber: Those members living outside the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area;
- (3) Full-Time Student
- (4) Family

b. Honorary Members: The title Honorary Member shall be given to those individuals recognized as outstanding authorities on Abraham Lincoln. They shall be approved for election to this class by a majority vote-of the Board of Directors.

c. Life Members: The title Life Member shall be given to those individuals who are in the active membership and have paid life membership dues, the amount of which is set by a majority vote of the officers.

d. Sustaining Members: The title Sustaining Member shall be given annually to those members who make a special contribution to the Lincoln Group in an amount to be set by a majority vote of the officers.

ARTICLE IV - DUES

Section 1. The fiscal year for The Lincoln Group begins January 1 and ends December 31. Dues are payable by the member upon acceptance to membership and thereafter annually every January. Dues for members joining after July 1 shall be pro-rated.

Section 2. Honorary members shall be exempt from dues, except on a voluntary basis, but shall otherwise enjoy all benefits and privileges of membership.

Section 3. Life members shall be exempt from dues after making a single payment to the Treasurer in the sum determined by majority vote of the Officers.

Section 4. The amount of dues shall be set by a majority vote of the Officers of The Lincoln Group.

Section 5. Non-payment of dues terminates membership in The Lincoln Group.

ARTICLE V. BOARD OF DIRECTORS, OFFICERS AND DUTIES

Section 1. There shall be a Board of Directors composed of the elected officers. The Board of Directors shall manage the affairs of The Lincoln Group.

Section 2. The elected officers shall be: President, Vice-President for Programs, Vice President for Special Events, Vice-President for Education and Outreach, *The Lincolnian* Editor, Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Recording Secretary. Officers shall be chosen from the paying membership.

Section 3. The term of office shall be two years or until the Officer's successor is chosen. Any officer's position which becomes vacant during the term of office may be filled ad interim temporarily by the Board until a successor is elected by special election. Officers are eligible for reelection but the President shall not serve more than two consecutive terms.

Section 4. The President shall preside at all meetings of the organization and of the Board of Directors. The President shall create and appoint chairs and members of all committees.

Section 5. The President shall notify the Board by email or telephone of temporary inability to fulfill his or her Presidential responsibilities and shall designate one of the Board members to preside as Interim President until the President notifies the Board he or she is able to resume his or her full duties.

Section 6. The Vice President for Programs shall be responsible for arranging speakers for monthly membership meetings. The Vice President for Special Events shall propose special events to the Board and be responsible for arranging such Board-approved events. The Vice President for Education and Outreach shall propose other educational and communication activities to the Board and be responsible for supervising those Board-approved activities including the LGDC website. *The Lincolnian* Editor shall, in cooperation with the Vice President for Education and Outreach, arrange for regular publication of The Lincoln Group newsletter, *The Lincolnian*.

Section 7. The Treasurer shall keep a record of all financial transactions, receipts, and disbursements and shall make payments of all duly authorized expenses. He or she shall prepare an annual budget report for publication in The Lincoln Group newsletter, *The Lincolnian*. The Annual report shall show operating expenses by purpose and income from dues, gifts, sales, and events.

Section 8. The Recording Secretary shall keep complete and correct minutes of the Officers' meetings, and keep copies of the By-laws and correspondence of The Lincoln Group.

Section 9. The Membership Secretary shall retain accurate membership rolls and compile, distribute, and regularly update the membership directory via the LGDC website and in printed form upon request.

Section 10. Nominations for terms of office shall be submitted by the Chair of the Nominating Committee to the general membership at the April meeting. Elections will be conducted at the May meeting by all members present at that meeting, and new officers will assume their duties immediately.

Section 11. Each officer will orient his or her successor to the duties and responsibilities connected with that office.

ARTICLE VI - BOARD OF ADVISORS

Section 1. The Board of Advisors shall consist of not over 12 members and the immediate past President who will serve in an advisory capacity and may, at the request of the President, assume committee chairs and attend meetings.

Section 2. . Members of the Board-Advisors shall be chosen from among those persons with an avid interest in Abraham Lincoln and shall be individuals supportive and knowledgeable of the objectives of The Lincoln Group. They shall be entitled to an equal vote on matters brought before them. In cases of a tie, The President will vote.

Section 3. The President shall make recommendations for appointment to the Board of-Advisors. Acceptance of the recommendations shall be by majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Section 4. A Chair of the Board of Advisors shall be chosen from among its members by the President with the majority consent of the-Board of Directors.

Section 5. The term of office shall be one year. Each member of the Board of Advisors may succeed him or herself.

ARTICLE VII - MEETINGS

Section 1. The annual meeting shall be held in May and include the election of the Officers.

Section 2. Regular meetings shall be usually held the third Tuesday of each month from September to May except the February meeting which is held on Abraham Lincoln's birthday or a date closest to his birthday selected by the Officers.

Section 3. The President shall meet with the officers three times a year: September, January and June. Special meetings may be called by the President.

ARTICLE VIII - STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 1. The President may appoint standing committees and designate their chairs and responsibilities-

Section 2. Standing committees shall report regularly to the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IX - THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating committee shall be appointed by the President and shall be responsible for conducting annual nominations and elections. It shall consist of at least three members.

ARTICLE X - AMENDMENTS

These by-laws may be amended by a simple majority vote of all members in good standing present at a regular or special meeting of The Lincoln Group provided any changes to the by-laws have been published in *The Lincolnian* no less than 30 days prior to the date of the vote.

ARTICLE XI - PROCEDURES

Section 1. Parliamentary procedures shall be governed by these by-laws and Robert's Rules of Order.

Section 2. The Lincoln Group shall indemnify directors and officer in accordance with DC Code Title 29, "Business Organizations."