

BY-LAWS
of
SAVANNAH MULTI-LIST CORPORATION

Adopted January 1, 1985

Article 1: Name

The name of this organization shall be the Savannah Multi-List Corporation of the Savannah Area REALTORS®, Inc., hereinafter referred to as the service, all the shares of stock of which are solely and wholly-owned by the Savannah Area REALTORS®. **M**

Article 1.1: Capital Stock

Certificates of stock shall be numbered in the order which they are issued. They shall be signed by the president and secretary and the seal of SMLC shall be affixed thereto. Stock certificates shall be bound in a book and shall be issued in consecutive order therefrom. On the stub of each certificate shall be entered the name of the owner, SAR, the number of shares, and the date of issue. Certificates of stock exchanged or returned shall be canceled by the secretary and placed in their original place in the stock book.

Transfer of Stock

Transfers of stock shall be made on the stock book of SMLC by the secretary or by power of attorney, or surrender of the old certificate of such shares, duly assigned.

Article 2: Purposes

A multiple listing service is a means by which authorized participants make blanket unilateral offers of compensation to other participants (acting as subagents, buyer agents, or in other agency or nonagency capacities defined by law); by which cooperation among participants is enhanced, by which information is accumulated and disseminated to enable authorized participants to prepare appraisals, analyses, and other valuations of real property for bona fide clients and customers; by which participants engaging in real estate appraisal contribute to common databases; and is a facility for the orderly correlation and dissemination of listing information so participants may better serve their clients and the public. Entitlement to compensation is determined by the cooperating broker's performance as procuring cause of the sale (or lease). (Amended 11/04) **M**

Article 3: Service Area

The service area of the MLS shall be determined by the MLS Board of Directors. **M**

Note: MLSs are encouraged to establish service areas that encompass natural markets and to periodically reexamine such boundaries. An MLS is not precluded from establishing and maintaining an MLS service area that exceeds the parent association(s) jurisdiction. (Amended 11/17)

Article 4: Participation Defined

Any REALTOR® of this or any other association who is a principal, partner, corporate officer, or branch office manager acting on behalf of a principal, without further qualification, except as

otherwise stipulated in these bylaws, shall be eligible to participate in multiple listing upon agreeing in writing to conform to the rules and regulations thereof and to pay the costs incidental thereto.** However, under no circumstances is any individual or firm, regardless of membership status, entitled to multiple listing service membership or participation unless they hold a current, valid real estate broker's license and offer or accept compensation to and from other participants or are licensed or certified by an appropriate state regulatory agency to engage in the appraisal of real property. Use of information developed by or published by an association multiple listing service is strictly limited to the activities authorized under a participant's licensure(s) or certification and unauthorized uses are prohibited. Further, none of the foregoing is intended to convey participation or membership or any right of access to information developed by or published by an association multiple listing service where access to such information is prohibited by law. The REALTOR® principal of any firm, partnership, corporation, or the branch office manager designated by said firm, partnership, or corporation as the participant shall have all rights, benefits, and privileges of the service, and shall accept all obligations to the service for the participant's firm, partnership, or corporation, and for compliance with the bylaws and rules and regulations of the service by all persons affiliated with the participant who utilize the service. (Amended 11/08) **M**

***Optional qualifications which may be adopted at the local association's discretion: Any applicant for MLS participation and any licensee (including licensed or certified appraisers) affiliated with an MLS participant who has access to and use of MLS-generated information shall complete an orientation program of no more than eight (8) classroom hours devoted to the MLS rules and regulations and computer training related to MLS information entry and retrieval within thirty (30) days after access has been provided. (Amended 11/96)*

Associations are not required to establish prerequisites for MLS participation beyond holding REALTOR® (principal) membership in an association. However, if the association wishes to establish these requirements for MLS participation or for access to MLS-generated information, the requirement of attendance at an orientation program is the most rigorous requirement that may be established. (Adopted 2/94)

Mere possession of a broker's license is not sufficient to qualify for MLS participation. Rather, the requirement that an individual or firm offers or accepts cooperation and compensation means that the participant actively endeavors during the operation of its real estate business to list real property of the type listed on the MLS and/or to accept offers of cooperation and compensation made by listing brokers or agents in the MLS. "Actively" means on a continual and ongoing basis during the operation of the participant's real estate business. The "actively" requirement is not intended to preclude MLS participation by a participant or potential participant that operates a real estate business on a part-time, seasonal, or similarly time-limited basis or that has its business interrupted by periods of relative inactivity occasioned by market conditions. Similarly, the requirement is not intended to deny MLS participation to a participant or potential participant who has not achieved a minimum number of transactions despite good faith efforts. Nor is it intended to permit an MLS to deny participation based on the level of service provided by the participant or potential participant as long as the level of service satisfies state law. (Adopted 11/08)

The key is that the participant or potential participant actively endeavors to make or accept offers of cooperation and compensation with respect to properties of the type that are listed on the MLS in which participation is sought. This requirement does not permit an MLS to deny participation to a participant or potential participant that operates a "Virtual Office Website" (VOW) (including a VOW that the participant uses to refer customers to other participants) if the participant or potential

participant actively endeavors to make or accept offers of cooperation and compensation. An MLS may evaluate whether a participant or potential participant actively endeavors during the operation of its real estate business to offer or accept cooperation and compensation only if the MLS has a reasonable basis to believe that the participant or potential participant is in fact not doing so. The membership requirement shall be applied in a nondiscriminatory manner to all participants and potential participants. (Adopted 11/08) **M**

Provision for Establishing Nonmember Participatory Rights (Open MLS)

Participation in the service is also available to nonmember principals who meet the qualifications established in the association's bylaws and MLS rules and regulations. However, under no circumstances is any individual or firm, regardless of membership status, entitled to multiple listing service participation or membership unless they hold a current, valid real estate broker's license and offer or accept compensation to and from other participants, or are licensed or certified by an appropriate state regulatory agency to engage in the appraisal of real property. Use of information developed by or published by an association multiple listing service is strictly limited to the activities authorized under a participant's licensure(s) or certification and unauthorized uses are prohibited. Further, none of the foregoing is intended to convey participation or membership or any right of access to information developed by or published by an association multiple listing service where access to such information is prohibited by law. The nonmember principal of any firm, partnership, corporation, or the branch office manager designated by said firm, partnership, or corporation as the participant shall have only those rights, benefits, and privileges as specified by the service, and shall accept all obligations to the service for the participant's firm, partnership, or corporation, and for compliance with the bylaws and rules and regulations of the service by all persons affiliated with the participant who utilize the service. (Amended 11/08)

Mere possession of a broker's license is not sufficient to qualify for MLS participation. Rather, the requirement that an individual or firm offers or accepts cooperation and compensation means that the participant actively endeavors during the operation of its real estate business to list real property of the type listed on the MLS and/or to accept offers of cooperation and compensation made by listing brokers or agents in the MLS. "Actively" means on a continual and ongoing basis during the operation of the participant's real estate business. The "actively" requirement is not intended to preclude MLS participation by a participant or potential participant that operates a real estate business on a part-time, seasonal, or similarly time-limited basis or that has its business interrupted by periods of relative inactivity occasioned by market conditions. Similarly, the requirement is not intended to deny MLS participation to a participant or potential participant who has not achieved a minimum number of transactions despite good faith efforts. Nor is it intended to permit an MLS to deny participation based on the level of service provided by the participant or potential participant as long as the level of service satisfies state law. (Adopted 11/08)

The key is that the participant or potential participant actively endeavors to make or accept offers of cooperation and compensation with respect to properties of the type that are listed on the MLS in which participation is sought. This requirement does not permit an MLS to deny participation to a participant or potential participant that operates a "Virtual Office Website" (VOW) (including a VOW that the participant uses to refer customers to other participants) if the participant or potential participant actively endeavors to make or accept offers of cooperation and compensation. An MLS may evaluate whether a participant or potential participant actively endeavors during the operation of its real estate business to offer or accept cooperation and compensation only if the MLS has a reasonable basis to believe that the participant or potential participant is in fact not doing so. The

membership requirement shall be applied in a nondiscriminatory manner to all participants and potential participants. (Adopted 11/08)

Article 4.1: Application for Participation

Application for participation shall be made in such manner and form as may be prescribed by the board of directors of the service and made available to any REALTOR® principal of this or any other association requesting it. The application form shall contain a signed statement agreeing to abide by these bylaws and any other applicable rules and regulations of the service as from time to time amended or adopted. (Amended 2/94) **M**

Article 4.2: Discontinuance of Service

Participants of the service may discontinue the service by giving the service 15 days' written notice and may reapply to the service after 3 months by making formal application in the manner prescribed for new applicants for participation provided all past dues and fees are fully paid. **M**

Article 4.3: Subscribers

Subscribers (or users) of the MLS include non-principal brokers, sales associates, and licensed and certified appraisers affiliated with participants. (Optional provision: Subscribers also include affiliated unlicensed administrative and clerical staff, personal assistants, and individuals seeking licensure or certification as real estate appraisers who are under the direct supervision of an MLS participant or the participant's licensed designee.) (Adopted 4/92) **M**

Article 4.4: Public Service Members

Public Service Members shall be individuals who are interested in the real estate profession as employees of or affiliated with educational, public utility, governmental or other similar organizations, but are not engaged in real estate profession on their own account or in association with an established real estate business. (Adopted 2/2021)

Note: Public Service Members can only receive a RETS IDX feed with limited data.

Article 5: Service Charges

The charges made for participation in the service shall be as determined, and as amended from time to time by the board of directors of the service, and specified in the rules and regulations of the service. **R**

Article 6: Government of the Service

The government of the service shall be vested in a board of directors comprised of the elected officers and directors nominated and elected as described in this article. **M**

Article 6.1: Officers of the Service

The officers of the service, who shall also be directors, shall be a President, President-Elect, and a Secretary-Treasurer, and shall have such duties as described in this article. **M**

Article 6.2 Board of Directors

There shall be a total of 9 elected directors, including the president, vice president, and secretary-treasurer of the service, to be elected from among the participants of the service, except that not more than 6 directors may be elected from among REALTORS® other than participants or from REALTOR-ASSOCIATE®S who are affiliated with participants and serve with consent of the participants as representatives of the participants with whom they are affiliated. In addition to the elected directors, the current president of the Savannah Area REALTORS® or a person appointed by the president, and the immediate past president of the service shall serve as directors, ex-officio, with full voting privileges. **M**

Article 6.3 Nomination and Election of Officers and Directors

The officers and directors of the service shall be nominated by a vote of the participants in the service in accordance with the provisions of Article 7, meetings, of these bylaws and as set forth below.

- 1. Nominating Committee:** The president of the service shall appoint a nominating committee each year, which committee shall be comprised of 3 participants of the service. The appointment of the nominating committee shall be made by such a date as to enable the committee to meet and select a proposed slate of officers and directors of the service not more than 14 nor less than 7 days prior to the date of the meeting of the participants of the service at which nominees shall be selected by vote of the participants. The proposed slate of officers and directors shall be reported to the president and secretary of the service.
- 2. Notice of Proposed Nominees:** The president shall cause a list of the proposed nominees selected by the nominating committee to be forwarded to the participants of the service, setting forth the time, place, and other pertinent conditions of the meeting to select the final list of nominees by vote of the participants of the service. The notice to the participants of the service concerning the meeting to select nominees for officers and directors shall be mailed on a date at least 14 days prior to the proposed meeting.
- 3. Rights of Participants to Select Additional Nominees:** The names of additional proposed nominees may be added to the list selected by the nominating committee by a petition submitted to the secretary of the service by 10% of the participants of the service, with said petition received not less than 14 days prior to the date of meeting of the participants to select nominees for officers and directors. The names contained in such petition, if duly received and certified, shall be presented in writing to the participants at the meeting to select nominees as additional nominees for consideration for such office as specified in the petition. In addition, nominations may be made from the floor at the duly noticed meeting of the participants to select nominees for officers and directors and, if seconded, shall be added to the list of proposed nominees.
- 4. Voting by Written Secret Ballot:** Voting for selection of nominees, if other than on a motion to cast a unanimous vote for the original proposed slate shall be by secret ballot, and said ballot shall contain blank spaces for writing in additional names proposed by petition or from the floor at the meeting to select nominees.
- 5. Vote to Select Nominees:** Voting shall be in accordance with provisions of Article 6.3 of these bylaws.
- 6. Nominees Submitted to Shareholder for Election:** When nominees for officers and directors of the service for the forthcoming fiscal year have been selected by vote of the participants of the service, such nominees shall be submitted to the board of directors of the Savannah Area

REALTORS® (shareholder) for election. Upon election by the board of directors of the Savannah Area REALTORS® (shareholder), the individuals so elected shall be considered officers-elect and directors-elect and shall assume their respective offices on (January 1).

The term of office for officers and directors of the service shall be on a calendar year basis. In the event one (1) or more nominee(s) is/are not elected by the board of directors of the Savannah Area REALTORS® (shareholder), and upon notice of such failure of election, the president of the service shall select a proposed subscriber or subscribers, as required, subject to confirmation by the board of directors, for submission as nominee(s) to the board of directors of the Savannah Area REALTORS® (shareholder) to be considered for election to fill the vacancy or vacancies existing.

In the event that nominees are not duly and timely provided by the service to the board of directors of the Savannah Area REALTORS®, as provided in these bylaws, then the board of directors of the Savannah Area REALTORS® shall exercise rights as sole and exclusive shareholder to elect a subscriber or subscribers of the service to fill any existing vacancy or vacancies as officers or directors of the service. **M**

7. No firm shall have more than two (2) elected officers and/or directors at any time serving on the board of directors.

Article 6.4: Terms of Office

The officers shall serve for a one-year term. The elected directors shall serve for staggered three-year terms with one-third of the terms expiring each year. Officers and directors shall take office upon the effective date of their offices and shall continue until their successors are elected, qualified, and installed. No officer or director shall be nominated and elected to the same office for more than two consecutive terms. **M**

Article 6.5: Duties of Officers and Directors

The duties of the officers and directors are as follows:

1. The president shall be the chief executive officer of the service and shall preside at its meetings and those of the board of directors, and shall perform all the duties of the president subject to declared policies and, as required, subject to confirmation of the board of directors.
2. The vice president shall, in the absence of the president, perform all of the duties of the president.
3. The secretary-treasurer shall be the custodian of the funds of the service and shall keep an accurate record of all receipts and disbursements. The secretary-treasurer shall provide to all members of the board of directors a quarterly statement of all accounts and financial affairs for the service.
4. The board of directors of the service shall be the governing body of the service and shall have control of all the affairs of the service and shall authorize all expenditures of funds. The board of directors shall, prior to the end of each fiscal year, prepare a budget reflecting projected costs and expenses of the service for the next fiscal year, indicating projected income from all sources. The budget shall be submitted to the participants of the service for review on a date not less than 15 days prior to the first day of the next fiscal year. The board of directors shall not incur an obligation in excess of 15% over the total budget without the authorization by vote of a two-

thirds majority of REALTOR® participants of the service present and voting unless such excess is the result of an increase in the volume of listings processed by the service over that projected in preparing the annual budget. The board of directors shall employ such executive, legal, and office personnel it deems necessary to care for and maintain the properties of the service and otherwise conduct the administrative business of the service. The board of directors shall have the right to make an audit of all books and accounts at any time without notice. The board of directors shall have the power from time-to-time to adopt such rules and regulations that they may deem appropriate subject to final approval of the board of directors of the Savannah Area REALTORS® (shareholder). Except as otherwise provided in these bylaws and rules and regulations, the action of the board of directors shall be final. **M**

Article 6.6: Removal of Officers and Directors

In the event that an officer or director of the multiple listing service is deemed to be incapable of fulfilling the duties for which elected, but will not resign from office voluntarily, the officer or director may be removed from office under the following procedure: (Adopted 11/96)

1. A petition requiring the removal of an officer or director and signed by not less than one-third of the participants or a majority of all directors of the MLS shall be filed with the president of the MLS, or if the president is the subject of the petition, with the next- ranking officer, and shall specifically set forth the reasons the individual is deemed to be disqualified from further service. (Adopted 11/96)
2. Upon receipt of the petition, and not less than twenty (20) days or more than forty-five (45) days thereafter, a special meeting of the participants of the MLS shall be held, and the sole business of the meeting shall be to consider the charge against the officer or director, and to render a decision on such petition. (Adopted 11/96)
3. The special meeting shall be noticed to all participants at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting, and shall be conducted by the president of the MLS unless the president's continued service in office is being considered at the meeting. In such case, the next-ranking officer will conduct the meeting or the hearing by the participants. Provided a quorum is present, a three-fourths vote of participants present and voting shall be required for removal from office. (Adopted 11/96)
4. Any vote taken by the participants to remove an officer or director must ultimately be confirmed by a majority vote of the directors of the shareholder(s). Notwithstanding the foregoing, the shareholder(s) may remove an officer or director by a majority vote of the directors of the shareholder(s). (Adopted 11/96) **R**

Vacancies

In the event of one (1) or more vacancies, except for the President and President-Elect, the President of the SMLC shall select a proposed Participant or Participants, as required, subject to confirmation by the board of directors.

If the offices of President and President-Elect become vacant, the most recent Immediate Past President, willing and able to serve, shall succeed to the office of President.

For President Elect, a candidate from Executive Committee shall be nominated by the president to be voted on in a called Participants Meeting with an announced period of time for nominations from the Participants. Such nominations shall be submitted to the Executive Officer no later than seven

business days prior to the called Participants Meeting. All nominations are subject to approval by a majority vote of the Directors of SAR. (Adopted 12/2018)

Article 7: Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of participants of the service shall be set by the board of directors at the time and place specified by the board of directors. **M**

Article 7.1: Special Meetings of the Service

Special meetings of participants of the service may be called from time to time by the president, the board of directors, or by 20% of the participants of the service. Written notice stating the day, place, and hour of the meeting, the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called, shall be delivered to all REALTORS® who are participants in the service not less than 5 days prior to said meeting. **M**

Article 7.2: Quorum and Voting at Meetings of the Service

For the transaction of business, 10% of the participants of the service shall be considered a quorum. A majority vote by such participants present and voting at a meeting attended by a quorum shall be required for passage of motions. **M**

Article 7.3: Meetings of the Board of Directors

The board of directors may meet at any time it deems advisable on the call of the president or any 2 members of the board of directors. 5 directors shall constitute a quorum. A majority vote by the directors present and voting at a meeting attended by a quorum shall be required for passage of motions. **M**

Absence from three (3) regular meetings within the calendar year shall be subject to removal from the board of directors, pending review by the executive committee. The decision of the executive committee is final. (Amended 2020)

Article 7.4: Presiding Officer

At all meetings of the participants of the service, or of the board of directors, the president or, in the absence of the president, the vice president shall serve as presiding officer. In the absence of the president and vice president, the president shall name a temporary chairperson or, upon the president's failure to do so, the board of directors of the service shall appoint a temporary chairperson. **M**

Article 8: Committees

The president, with the approval of the board of directors, shall create such standing or ad hoc committees as the president deems desirable and shall appoint their members. Each committee shall consist of not less than 1 participants in the service, but may also include REALTORS® or REALTOR-ASSOCIATE®s, employed by or affiliated as independent contractors with a REALTOR® participant serving as representatives of said REALTOR® participants and with their consent, and who may serve either as a chairperson or member of a committee. **M**

Executive Committee

The SMLC Executive Committee shall consist of the current President, President-Elect, Treasurer-Secretary, and the Immediate Past President of the SMLC. The SMLC President and President-Elect shall be the Chairman and Vice Chairman, respectively. The CEO is a member of the Committee in an ex-officio capacity. Each member shall have one vote.

MLS Committee

The MLS Committee shall be selected by the President-Elect from the applications received during the 4th quarter of the calendar year. The number of subscribers to serve shall not be more than 13 which includes the MLS Chair. At least one but no more than 2 voting members of the Committee must also be a Board of Director.

Absence from three (3) regular meetings within the calendar year shall be subject to removal from the MLS Committee, pending review by the President and MLS Chair. The decision of the President and MLS Chair is final.

Replacement of Standing Committee Appointees

The President shall appoint replacement committee members from the SMLC REALTOR® Members, subject to confirmation by the Board of Directors. (Adopted 12/13)

Article 9: Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the service shall commence on January 1st and shall end on December 31st.
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Article 10: Amendments to Bylaws

Amendments to these bylaws shall be by the participants of the service, and shall be determined at an annual meeting or special meeting of the service in accordance with the provisions of Article 7, concerning meetings of the service. Amendments to the bylaws of the service approved by the participants shall further be subject to approval of the board of directors of the Savannah Area REALTORS® (shareholder).

When amendments to the bylaws of the service have been approved by the board of directors of the Savannah Area REALTORS® (shareholder), said amendments shall be effective immediately or as stated in the amending resolution.

If the proposed amendments to the bylaws of the multiple listing service fail approval of the board of directors of the shareholder, the board of directors of the multiple listing service shall be informed, and advised that the proposed amendment or amendments to the bylaws be further considered and resubmitted to the shareholder as approved by the participants of the multiple listing service. **M**

Article 10.1: Amendments to Rules and Regulations

Amendments to the rules and regulations of the service shall be by consideration and approval of the board of directors of the multiple listing service in accordance with the provisions of Article 7, Section 7.3, concerning meetings of the board of directors, subject to final approval by the board of directors of the Savannah Area REALTORS® (shareholder)

When approved by the board of directors of the Savannah Area REALTORS® (shareholder) as described, the amendments to the rules and regulations of the multiple listing service shall be effective immediately or as stated in the amending resolution.

If the proposed amendments of the multiple listing service rules and regulations fail approval by the board of directors of the shareholder, the board of directors of the multiple listing service shall be informed, and advised that the proposed amendment or amendments must be further considered and resubmitted as approved by the board of directors of the multiple listing service to the board of directors of Savannah Area REALTORS® (shareholder). **M**

Article 11: Dissolution

In the event this service shall at any time terminate its activities, the board of directors of the service shall consider and adopt a plan of liquidation and dissolution with the approval of the participants thereof and of the board of directors of the Savannah Area REALTORS® (shareholder). Said plan shall provide for the collection of all assets, the payment of all liabilities, and that the remaining portions thereof be assigned to the parent corporation, namely, Savannah Area of REALTORS®. **M**