

The Mother Lode Mineral Society of California

CONSTITUTION

APPROVED by the MLMS Executive Board and Board: October 8, 2026

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of the Society shall be THE MOTHER LODGE MINERAL SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

Section 1: To revive, create and develop, among the population of Central California, and elsewhere, a general appreciation and interest of the Earth Sciences, Mineralogy and all related subjects, and to promote the study in metals, ores and rocks and all culture and arts pertaining thereto.

Section 2: To encourage the preservation of mineral specimens, paleontological specimens, lapidary materials and the perpetuation of the lapidary arts.

Section 3: The improvement of its members in their knowledge of the Earth Sciences, the Lapidary Arts, and Jewelry making.

Section 4: To purchase, lease, take in exchange, or otherwise acquire, and to hold, own, develop, operate, sell, assign, transfer, convey, exchange, mortgage, pledge, or otherwise dispose of and encumber real and personal property of every class and description, and rights and privileges therein in the State of California, or any other state, territory or district or possession of the United States of America.

ARTICLE III: LOCATION

The Society shall be located in Modesto, California.

ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS

Section 1: The annual meeting shall be held in the month of December.

Section 2: Regular meetings shall be held each calendar month when feasible.

Section 3: Special Board Meetings – special board meetings may be called by the President, or the officer serving in the absence of the President. No business may come before a special meeting except that for which the meeting is called. There shall be a 24-hour notification to the Board prior to the meeting, if possible.

Section 4: The time and place of all general meetings shall be determined by the Executive Board, subject to the approval by the members at the next regular meeting.

ARTICLE V: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Any person interested in the Earth Sciences and whose application is approved by the MLMS Board. (See Bylaws - Article III, Section I)

Section 2: Membership in this society shall be classified as defined in Article III, Section 4 of the Bylaws.

Section 3: Membership Termination is defined in Article III, Section 5, of the Bylaws.

ARTICLE VI: OFFICERS

Section 1: The Executive Board is comprised of the: PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, CORRESPONDING-RECORDING SECRETARY, TREASURER, MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY. {5}

Section 2: The Board is comprised of the Executive Board and: FIELD TRIP CHAIRPERSON, HOUSE DIRECTOR, EDITOR of the Ghost Sheet/Newsletter, SCHOLARSHIP SECRETARY, PROPERTY SUPERVISOR, SHOW CHAIRPERSON, WEBMASTER, SUNSHINE SECRETARY, COMMUNITY SERVICE DIRECTOR, JR. ROCKHOUND COORDINATOR, and the last three (3) available PAST PRESIDENTS who have remained members in good standing. {10-13} for a total of up to 18 Board members. A Social Media Director and Education Director may be added to the Board when the Executive Board determines the need.

ARTICLE VII: NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1: NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

- a. At the regular month of May General meeting, members of a nominations committee shall be nominated and elected from the floor. The President shall appoint a chairperson of this committee.
- b. It shall be the responsibility of this Chairperson to call meeting(s) of the Committee to consider nominees for the various offices.
- c. The Nominations Committee will submit the candidate list to the Board for approval and inclusion on the annual ballot for new officers. New candidates may not be excluded for the reason of a current Board Member seeking to retain their position.

DUTIES OF THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

- a. The members of the Nominations Committee shall make themselves familiar with the duties of the officers as defined in Article I of the Bylaws.
- b. The Nominations Committee shall carefully choose candidates for their fitness and ability to fill the respective offices. No member may be nominated by the committee without his or her consent. More than one member may be nominated for each office.

c. The Nominations Committee will submit the candidate list to the Board for approval and inclusion on the annual ballot for new officers. New candidates may not be excluded for the reason of a current Board Member seeking to retain their position.

Section 2: Elections: Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the regular meeting in November, to be followed by the election of officers.

Section 3: If more than one candidate is nominated for office, the winner will be determined by a ballot vote. Only members in good standing, as defined in Article III, Section 2 of the Bylaws, physically present at the meeting can vote. A majority of all votes cast shall be necessary to elect an officer. The installation of officers shall be at the December meeting.

Section 4: Elected officers shall serve for one year from the date elected or until the next annual election. Appointed officers shall serve as indicated by the appointments.

ARTICLE VIII: MANAGEMENT

Section 1: The management of the Society shall consist of the Executive Board and Board.

Section 2: The Executive Board and Board shall take office immediately following the installation at the annual meeting in December, and shall have immediate management of the Society's affairs, funds and properties.

Section 3: There shall be a one-month transition period allowed, if necessary, to complete the financial account turnovers with the officers and the bank. This is solely to preclude the inability to conduct transactions.

Section 4: Vacancies in the Executive Board and Board shall be filled by the majority vote of the members of the Board, except as directed in the Bylaws, Article I, Sections 13-21.

ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended, after Board review, at any regular meeting, by a 50 percent majority vote of the members present, but there must be a minimum of the previous six month average of membership attendees present provided that the proposed amendment(s) has (have) been submitted in writing to the members and read to the Society at least one month prior to being voted upon.

ARTICLE X: DEDICATION AND DISSOLUTION

Section 1: This corporation is organized and operated exclusively for public and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Section 2: The property of this corporation is irrevocably dedicated to the Earth Sciences and related purposes and no part of the net income or assets of this corporation shall ever inure to the benefit of any director, officer or member thereof or to the benefit of any private person.

Section 3: Upon the dissolution or winding up of the Corporation, its assets remaining after payment, or provision for payment, of all debts and liabilities of this Corporation shall be distributed to a nonprofit fund, foundation or corporation which is organized and operated exclusively for Earth Science purposes and which has established its tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

ARTICLE XI: MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

A Memorial Scholarship Fund is hereby established. The deposits to the fund will be derived from: (1) gifts from friends and relatives of deceased members, (2) money given in lieu of flowers etc. to the Society, and (3) donations given to the fund. This fund will exist as a line-item in the MLMS Checking Account ledger or as a Certificate of Deposit (CD).

Section 1: These deposits become an integral part of the Scholarship Fund and are intended to form a perpetual fund. Removal or transfer of funds from this account line-item or CD shall be limited to financial needs determined by the Executive Board to be necessary for the survival of the MLMS. The MLMS may, but is not required to, donate funds to this account.

Section 2: A bank or financial institution shall be chosen by the Treasurer and approved by the Executive Board to handle the investing of the fund if in the form of a CD. Funds will be used solely for Earth Sciences scholarship(s).

Section 3: Once each year the Executive Board may accept names of candidates for scholarship awards from the Junior Colleges, Colleges or Universities in which the candidates are enrolled. Only candidates entering, or enrolled in the field of the Earth Sciences are eligible for consideration. (See Bylaws Article X for specifics)

Section 4: The final judgment of the recipient rests with the Executive Board of The Mother Lode Mineral Society of California. After finalization of selected Awardee(s), the Scholarship Chairperson, on notification by the Executive Board, shall pay to the Awardee(s), the amount of the award(s).

Section 5: The Executive Board shall establish the size and number of awards, based on the funds available.

Section 6: In case of disbandment of The Mother Lode Mineral Society of California, this fund shall be assigned to another appropriate scholarship awarding organization.