

PHILOSOPHY

1. **We believe that the family that prays together stays together.**
2. We believe in Jesus Christ, that we are all children of God and praise Him in all things.
3. We believe that children are our future. The family is an educative source for the child. The elder members will direct our children, assist in meeting their needs, promote independence, self-esteem, and self respect. Finally, prepare them to become a productive and positive asset to this family and the community.
4. We believe in members taking active steps in promotion of the concept of family, a sense of cohesiveness and togetherness within the family and in the community. Our family is a circle of caring.
5. We believe that the family is unique in terms of its ability to provide emotional and spiritual security through membership of a close caring group; physical security based on the family's sense of duty and willingness to protect its members.
6. We believe that the history of the older generations, as well as, the influence of parents, and siblings will serve as a basis for child rearing. These persons will act as mentors during the child's formative years.
7. We believed that the family is concerned with the activities and health of members. The family provides services in helping members to grow and mature, adapt to changing circumstances and/or environment, recover from illness or disability, and/or die with dignity.
8. We believe that all members are to be treated with dignity and are entitled to respect while all personal and sensitive information is kept confidential.
9. We believe it is important for the Ben Alford Family to focus on our historical roots. To accentuate the positive, and to have knowledge about, but alleviate practice of the negative.
10. We believe that the quality and longevity of our organization is directly related to our recognition and appreciation of its members.

STATEMENT

The organization of the Ben Alford Family recognizes and accepts its responsibility to provide and promote family love and unity.

OBJECTIVES

I

The family's actions will provide for an environment that ensures an ongoing of the delivery of our family history.

II

The family's actions will provide for an environment that ensures the recognition of the dignity of each member.

III

The family's actions will provide for an environment that embraces and cares for it's members, and ensures the safety of the individual.

IV

The family will collect membership data, make revisions, and ensure that such data is accessible, communicated and recorded.

V

The family will provide for members' participation in the promotion of education, health, self-esteem, self-respect and independence.

VI

The family will encourage and assist the member to maximize his/her capabilities.

VII

The family will provide for an environment that reflects positive role models.

VIII

The family will provide for an environment that represents the basic philosophy and teachings of spiritual concepts.

IX

To evaluate the family's progress or lack of progress towards goal achievement, direct reassessment,

reordering of priorities, and establish new goals and plans of action as indicated.

Article I FAMILY CHART

The reference point for this organization shall be Ben Alford and his descendants and will be known as the Ben Alford Family Union. **The following are the current known descendent family heads: Annie Alford Ladlar; Mamie Alford Nesmith/Alex Nesmith; Jethro Alford; George Alford/Eula Roberts Alford; and George Alford/Daisy Hobbs Alford.** See Appendix A for family chart.

Article II QUALIFICATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1 All those persons considered as descendants of Ben Alford and their families will be members of the Ben Alford Family Union.
- Section 2 Honorary Membership
- The organization may admit as members non-descendant persons on the basis of merit, or in accordance with principles of honor.
- Section 3 **Dues, Rules and Regulations. rules and regulations need to be added to this section**
- A) All members of the Ben Alford Family Union shall be subject to payment of
 - \$15.00 – members aged 65 and older
 - \$25.00 – members aged 18-64
 - \$10.00 – members aged 10-17
 - B) Those persons under the age of 10 years and medically disabled are considered exempt from payment of dues.
 - C) Dues will be collected in October of reunion off year (odd years) and July of reunion on year (even years). Each District is responsible for the collection of its members dues.
 - D) Payment of dues will be decided and changed by a majority vote of members present.
 - E) Members are designated as active or inactive. Active members pay annual fees.
 - F) All members shall pay assessed financial obligations, and work toward the objectives of this family.

Article III TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP

A member may transfer from one district to another. A change of address to the geographical boundaries of another district constitutes the effective date of transfer. Upon transfer, the individual assumes the rights and responsibilities as a member in the new district.

Article IV CHRISTIAN GREETING

Members shall address/greet one another as Brother or Sister respectively.

Article V DISTRICTS

A district may be established in a geographic area where descendants of Ben Alford currently reside.

Section 1 Current Districts

Currently, five districts have been established in geographic areas where two or more groups of members reside. These districts are County Line, South Florida, Vero Beach, New Jersey and Atlanta and **St. Louis**. The County Line district is considered headquarters for this family.

Section 2 Organization of a New District

- A. Districts may be established in geographic areas where active members agree to form a district and the petition is approved by a majority vote of members present.

Section 3. Powers, Duties, Responsibilities

- A. Each district shall function under bylaws, rules and regulations that are not in conflict with these bylaws, rules, and regulations.
- B. Districts determine the amounts of their local fees and assessments. Districts have control of their assessed income, expenses, contracts, accounting systems and internal reports related to the activities of its local members.
- C. Expenses assessed to host **the interim year** business and planning meeting, and to host **the Family Reunion** picnic shall be the responsibility of the national treasury in an amount preapproved by a majority vote of members present.

Article VI BUSINESS and PLANNING MEETINGS

Section 1 Membership

The regularly scheduled business and planning meetings shall comprise of the members of the Board of Directors (Union officers and all District Presidents), chairpersons (or designee) of standing committees and a minimum of two active members from each district.

Section 2 Meetings

- A. **The Family Reunion Conference shall be held biannually the first Saturday following July 4 in the general location of an established district as determined by a majority vote of members present during the conference business meeting.**
- B. **There shall be a business and-planning mid-year meeting in October during the interim year at a location determined by the board** and a regular business meeting during the **Family Reunion Conference. The Board of Directors may call special sessions.**
- C. The officers of the Union and **member** representation from three-of the districts shall constitute a quorum. All meetings shall follow parliamentary procedures.

Article VII FAMILY REUNION CONFERENCE

Section 1 General Meeting

- A. All members are **encouraged** to attend all activities scheduled during the family reunion.
- B. All members are **expected** to attend the **mid-year interim and the conference business/planning meetings.**
- C. Members will receive notice of meetings through written and/or verbal communications via District Presidents, and may register their intent to attend.

Article VIII ELECTIONS

Section 1 Elections Time

- A. The election of **national Union** officers shall take place at the **Family Reunion Conference** business meeting.

Section 2 Vote

- A. A **majority vote** shall elect officers.
- B. A **majority** vote shall elect committee members.

Section3 Terms

- A. All elected persons shall serve a term of two years or until their successors are elected, and their term of office shall begin at the close of the meeting at which they are elected.
- B. Members shall hold no more than one elected office at a time

Article IX HEADQUARTERS

The "home base" of the Union, referred to as Headquarters, shall be located at **County Line, Georgia.**

Article X OFFICERS

Section 1 Titles

The officers of this national Union shall be regular members of the Ben Alford Family. The elected officers of the family shall be President, First Vice President, Second Vice President(District President), Third Vice President(District President), Secretary, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Sergeant-at-Arms, and Chaplain.

Section 2 Duties

The duties of the officers shall be as follows:

- A. The President shall be the presiding officer and shall administer all business of the Union as provided for by the bylaws.
- B. The Vice Presidents shall perform the duties of the President in the President's absence and shall provide information of the family history. In the event of the President's vacating office during the term, the First Vice President shall succeed into the Presidency until the next **Family Reunion Conference** business meeting elections are completed.
- C. The Secretary shall serve as corresponding and recording secretary.
- D. **The Treasurer shall be the custodian of the funds of the Union.**
- E. **The Finance Secretary shall be responsible for the recording of all budgets and financial records.**
- F. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall enforce the commands, reserve order, etc.
- G. The Chaplain shall administer the prayer, invocation, etc. and shall be responsible for promoting awareness and the teaching of spiritual concepts.

Article XI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1 Membership

The Board of Directors shall consist of the elected Union officers and all District Presidents , whom are all voting members.

Section 2 Administration

The Board of Directors shall manage the business affairs of this family. The Board of Directors shall supervise and manage the Union, its committees and monitor the disbursements of its funds.

The functions of the Board of Directors are:

- A. **To transact necessary business of this family between the regularly scheduled**

business/planning meetings, including the appointment of the chairpersons and members of standing and special committees with instructions as to duties.

- B. To ratify changes in the Bylaws of this family when approved by a majority vote of members present as provided in the Article XIV Amendments to Bylaws.
- C. To investigate and recommend to the **membership body** any matter pertaining to the welfare of this family.
- D. To evaluate and make recommendations in regards to petitions to admit persons for honorary membership.
- E. To evaluate and make recommendations in regards to petitions to establish a new district.

Section 3 Meetings

- A. **The Board of Directors shall meet as necessary to conduct the business of the family during the interim period of pre-established scheduled business/planning meetings.**
- B. Four members of the Board of Directors shall contribute a quorum. Telephone conferences are acceptable.

Article XII COMMITTEES

Section 1 Standing Committees

- A. The standing committees shall be: Bylaws Committee, Finance Committee, Activities and Program Committee, and the Research Committee
- B. **The President is a standing member of all committees. The Treasurer and Finance Secretary are standing members of the Finance Committee.**
- C.. Each committee shall present a report to the Delegates and the Board of Directors.

Section 2 Special Committees

Each committee to be described and purpose outlined.

Article XIII FINANCE

Section 1 Fiscal Year

The fiscal year shall be July 1 through June 30.

Section 2 Active Membership Fee

- A. Each member shall pay assessed dues annually for active member benefits.
- C. **These fees shall be used to fund the picnic activities at the Family Reunion Conference.**

Section 3 Expenses - Authorized

All authorized expenses of standing and special committees, and host district expenditures will be distributed in **advance (80% max. of estimated costs) and/or reimbursed** from the national treasury.

**Article XIV
AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS**

Section 1 Amendments with Notice

Any member of the Ben Alford Family may submit in writing a proposed change **to these Bylaws**, which shall be referred to the Bylaws Committee for review. The Bylaws Committee shall make a report at the business/planning meeting during the interim year. The proposed changes shall be communicated in writing to all members via district Presidents at least one month prior to the scheduled meeting. The adoption of an amendment shall require **a majority vote** of the members present.

Section 2 Revisions

All amendments to the Bylaws will be presented at the **Family Reunion Conference business meeting. An updated copy of the Bylaws shall be** distributed to district Presidents, and made available to all members upon request.

Section 3 Adoption

These Bylaws shall be adopted by a **majority vote** of the members of the Ben Alford Family Union present at the **Family Reunion Conference business meeting, and shall be mandatory changes effective immediately.**

MEMBERSHIP DATA RECORD

Name of Descendant Line: _____

Name: _____

Spouse: _____

Date of Birth:

You: ____/____/____

Spouse: ____/____/____

Area Code and Telephone Number: _____ - _____

Mailing Address:

E-Mail Address: _____

Membership District: _____

Membership Status (check one): Active _____ Inactive _____

Marital Status: Single _____ Married _____ Divorced _____

Separated _____ Widowed _____

Anniversary Date: ____/____/____

Family Members:

Please, list children in chronological order. Write additional members on the back of this page.

Name: _____ DOB: ____/____/____

Name: _____ DOB: ____/____/____

Name: _____ DOB: ____/____/____

Name: _____ DOB: ____/____/____

Office Appointments:

_____ Year: _____

_____ Year: _____

Committee Appointments

_____ Year: _____

_____ Year: _____

_____ Year: _____

Occupation:

You: _____

Spouse: _____

Achievements:

Talents/Skills:

Community/Professional Organizations:

Special Interests:

Health Concerns:

Educational Concerns:

Spiritual Concerns:

Other Concerns:

Suggestions/Recommendations:

Tell Us about You and/or Your Family:
