CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

of

THE

AMERICAN ROMANIAN
ORTHODOX YOUTH
CONSTITUTION of
THE AMERICAN ROMANIAN ORTHODOX YOUTH

ARTICLE I
NAME

The name of the organization shall be the American Romanian Orthodox Youth, known also as AROY.

ARTICLE II
GENERAL PURPOSE

AROY’s Purpose shall be:
1. To function as an auxiliary organization of the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America.
2. To become learned in, to practice, and to promote the Orthodox Christian Faith.
3. To promote fellowship and initiate common programs among all the youth of the Episcopate.
4. To dedicate itself to the consolidation of the unity of the Orthodox Church in America.

ARTICLE III
MEMBERSHIP

AROY is comprised of every Orthodox young person living under the canonical jurisdiction of the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America, organized into youth chapters as provided by the AROY By-Laws.

ARTICLE IV
LEGISLATIVE POWERS

1. All legislative powers shall be vested in the AROY Conference, to be held not less than once each calendar year.
2. The AROY Conference shall be composed of the Bishop, the Spiritual Advisor, the members of the Executive Board, the presidents of the local chapters, and the delegates elected annually by the chapters, not more than five (5) delegates per chapter, regardless of the number of members the chapter has.

ARTICLE V
EXECUTIVE POWERS

1. All Executive powers shall be vested in the Executive Board.

ARTICLE VI
JUDICIAL POWERS

1. AROY shall function under the Charter of the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America.

2. The Bishop of the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America shall be the Spiritual leader of AROY.

3. The Congress of the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America shall have the power to ratify or refuse ratification of any constitution, By-Laws, or any amendment thereto, passed by the prior year’s AROY Conference. Any such AROY enactment which is not refused ratification shall be deemed ratified.

4. The Episcopate shall exercise the final judicial power in all cases of dispute.

ARTICLE VII
AMENDMENTS

1. The Constitution and By-Laws of AROY may be amended by the Annual Conference at a special legislative session called for that purpose.

2. The adoption of any amendment to the Constitution or By-Laws shall be by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present at the meeting and eligible to vote.

BY-LAWS of
THE AMERICAN ROMANIAN ORTHODOX YOUTH

ARTICLE I
MEMBERSHIP

A. INDIVIDUALS

1. Any young person chrismated in the Holy Orthodox Christian Faith who practices the Faith and who partakes of Her Holy Mysteries, shall be eligible for membership in AROY.

2. Every eligible young person practicing the Faith in an established parish under the canonical jurisdiction of the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America is a member of AROY. This provision shall be effective on the date these Constitution and By-Laws are ratified.

B. LOCAL CHAPTERS

1. Any group of AROY members belonging to a parish under the canonical jurisdiction of the Episcopate may organize into a local chapter, by making an application and stating its intent to the Executive Board.

2. The AROY Executive Board, after determining that the petitioning group has adopted and accepted the Constitution and By-Laws of AROY, and that it is able to fulfill the obligations established by the Annual AROY Conference, may accept it into membership as a chapter, subject to ratification by the next Annual AROY Conference.

3. A local AROY chapter shall be considered active and shall enjoy all rights and privileges provided by these Constitution and By-Laws, if it fulfills as a minimum the following obligations:
   a. Participation through delegates at the Annual AROY Conference; and
   b. Cooperation and support to the programs of AROY; and
   c. Payment of the annual Work Month Project, in the amount as established by the Annual AROY Conference; and
   d. Maintenance of at least six (6) members in good standing; and
e. Payment of dues, if established by the AROY Conference.

4. Any local chapter that shall fail to pay either its annual dues and/or its Work Month Project may be denied the seating of its delegates at the Annual AROY Conference, upon resolution of the Executive Board. If any local chapter fails for a period of two (2) consecutive years to fulfill the obligations of Paragraph three (3) above, it may be declared by the AROY Conference to be inactive and lose its rights and privileges of the AROY.

5. In case a chapter either dissolves or is duly declared inactive, all of the chapter’s properties and funds shall pass to the patrimony of the AROY organization. If, due to any law of the United States, or of Canada, or of any state or province, the chapter’s properties and funds may not pass outside the territory of the jurisdiction, then all of the properties and funds of the chapter in question shall pass in trust to the Dean or Deanery Administrator of the Deanery where the chapter was located, or to such other Trustee as the Bishop shall appoint in writing.

C. CHAPTER-AT-LARGE

1. There is established the AROY Chapter-at-large, which shall exist so long as it has at least ten (10) members.

2. Every young person, eligible for AROY membership under By-Laws Article 1 § A., ¶ 2, who lives in a regional area where no local chapter in good standing exists, is a member of the Chapter-at-Large.

3. The Vice President of AROY shall be the President of the Chapter-at-Large, who shall have the following responsibilities:

(a) Acting as chapter President; and
(b) Preparing and maintaining membership rosters; and
(c) Circulating material and correspondence to members; and
(d) Supervising and carrying out election of delegates to the Annual AROY Conference.

4. There is established within the Chapter-at-Large an AROY committee in each parish not having a chartered AROY chapter. The officers shall be a Chairman and Secretary / Treasurer who shall be elected by the parish youth at an annual meeting in May.
7. To call a conference to order, at least half plus one of the member chapters must be present at the meeting through their representatives. To conduct business, a quorum shall consist of a majority of the number of voting members registered as attending the Conference.

8. The rules for voting in the AROY Conference are:

(a) Voting may be done by:
1. Consent without objection;
2. Raising hands;
3. Secret ballot, if requested by at least three (3) delegates none of whom are from the same chapter.

(b) There shall be no voting by proxy.

(c) Each member of the AROY Conference shall be entitled to one (1) vote.

**ARTICLE III**

**THE AROY EXECUTIVE BOARD**

1. The AROY Executive Board shall consist of:

(a) The following elected officers:
1. A President;
2. A Vice-President;
3. A Secretary;
4. A Treasurer;
5. Two (2) Auditors;
6. Up to four (4) Members-at-Large.

(b) The following members Ex-Officio:
1. The Bishop;
2. The Spiritual Advisor appointed by the Bishop;
3. the Immediate Past President, who shall serve a term of one (1) year.

(c) The following officers may be appointed by the Executive Board:
1. AROY Sports Director;
2. Inter-Orthodox Representative;
3. Reporting Historian;
4. Special Appointment(s) at the discretion of the President

2. The election of the AROY Executive Board shall be done in the following manner:

(a) Not less than March 1 of each year, the Executive Board shall appoint a nominating committee consisting of three (3) members, one of whom shall be the AROY Spiritual Advisor, one of whom shall be an Executive Board member, and one a delegate who was registered and present at the preceding Annual AROY Conference. The nominating committee shall be responsible for seeking and listing nominees to serve on the Executive Board.

(b) Members of the Executive Board are elected during the Electoral Session of the Conference, presided over by the current Spiritual Advisor, or in his absence, by a Priest appointed by the Bishop.

(c) Immediately following the opening of the Electoral Session, the nominating committee shall present the letters of intention of those qualified and willing to serve on the Executive Board. No nomination from the Convention floor is in order for any office unless by the time the Electoral Session is opened, the nominating committee has received no letter of intention from any qualified person.

(d) From the general list of qualified candidates presented by the nominating committee, nominations are in order for specific offices.

(e) To be eligible for election to the Executive Board, a nominee must:

1. Be a duly elected chapter president or delegate to the current Conference, or be a member of the outgoing Board, either elected or appointed, and
2. Have been present at the opening roll call of the Conference in progress, and
3. Nominees for the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer must be at least twenty-one (21) years old; all other nominees for election must be at least eighteen (18) years old.
4. No two (2) persons shall be eligible for election to the offices of President, Vice-President, and Treasurer who are related as spouses, siblings or as parent and child.

(f) To be elected, each candidate must receive a majority of one-half plus one of all those present and casting their votes. If no candidate receives a majority, then the candidate with the least number of votes shall be eliminated from the ballot and voting shall continue this until one (1) candidate receives a majority.

(g) If there is only one (1) candidate for a specific office, voting could be by acclamation. If there are two (2) or more candidates, voting shall be done by secret ballot.

(h) If there are two (2) or more candidates for a specific office, the ballots shall be tallied by an appointed Board of Tellers and the winner certified by the Conference Secretary. The number of votes received by each candidate shall not be disclosed either during or after the Electoral Session, unless disclosure is either:

1. Agreed to by all candidates on the ballot in question, or
2. Mandated by majority vote of the Electoral Session.

(i) The newly elected Board shall be officially installed during the current Conference in the Holy Church by taking the following Oath of Office:

"I do solemnly swear that I will fulfill my duties as a member of the AROY Executive Board; that I will work without regard for my personal interests and without partiality toward others; that I will uphold and defend the Constitution and By-Laws of AROY and The Episcopate, and the spiritual authority of the Bishop. So help me God."

Each member of the AROY Executive board shall hold office until his or her successor is elected and duly installed.

3. The term of office for the members of the Executive Board shall be one (1) year. With the exception of the office of Inter-Orthodox Representative, no member of the board may serve more than two (2) consecutive terms in the same office. No person may serve more than three (3) consecutive terms in the office of Inter-Orthodox representative.

4. (a) In the event of a vacancy in the office of President between elections, the Vice President shall become acting President for the un-expired term. If the Vice President is unable or unwilling to so act, a majority of the Executive Board shall elect from among its members an acting President to serve for the un-expired term.
    (b) In the event of a vacancy in any other elected office between elections, a majority of the Executive Board shall elect from among its Members-at-Large a qualified person to fill the vacancy. If no member is eligible for the vacant office because of age or other wise, the board may elect a qualified person who was actually seated as a member of the prior year’s Conference for the un-expired term.

5. The Executive Board shall meet not less than three (3) times a year, at a time and place decided upon at the previous meeting. Not less than 28 days (4 weeks) before each meeting, the Secretary shall mail a written notice and agenda to all Board members.

6. A quorum for any meeting of the Executive Board shall consist of a majority of the members of the Board then in office.

7. The Board may, in exceptional cases, transact business through referendum by mail or by telefacsimile/fax. In such cases the Secretary shall mail or fax to each member the proposed resolution. The vote on the referendum must be returned within fourteen (14) days after the date of mailing or fax transmittal. In order for a referendum by mail or fax to be valid, a total of seven (7) votes must be timely received by the Secretary. All resolutions voted upon by a referendum shall be recorded in the minutes of the next Board Meeting.

8. Duties and Powers of the Executive Board:

(a) To carry out the decisions of the AROY Conference.
    (b) To examine applications and to accept new chapters into membership pending ratification by the Conference.
9. Duties of the Officers of the Executive Board

(a) The President: Is the Chief executive officer exercising the general supervision of the work and activities of AROY and shall preside at all Conference and Executive Board meetings; the President is, ex officio, a member of the Episcopate Council and by virtue thereof, a member of the Episcopate Congress.

(b) The Vice-President: In the event of the absence or inability of the President to perform and discharge the duties of office, or when so delegated by the President, the Vice President has the same authority as the President. In addition, the Vice President shall discharge the duties stated in By-Laws Article I, § C, ¶ 3.

(c) The Secretary: Together with the President, shall be responsible for the signing of all official documents issued by AROY, and shall affix the organizations seal when required. The Secretary shall also be responsible for the minutes of all meetings of the Conference and Executive Board. At the Presidents request, the Secretary shall be responsible to transmit all official correspondence and information.

(d) The Treasurer: Shall be responsible for all of AROY’s financial operations, and shall receive and disburse AROY funds and payments as authorized by the Executive Board; the Treasurer shall transact all business through the depository as designated by the Annual AROY Conference, shall keep all financial records upon the Auditors’ request, and shall present an Annual Financial Report to the Conference. The Treasurer shall be bonded and shall sign all checks together with the President.

(e) The Auditors: Shall audit all financial books of AROY at least two (2) times a year. In addition, together with the Treasurer, the Auditors shall be responsible for coordinating all the organization’s financial matters.

(f) The Members-at-Large: Shall be responsible for all duties assigned by the President with approval of the Board.

ARTICLE IV
FINANCES

1. To achieve its goals and realize its programs and projects, AROY may collect and possess its own funds which may be derived from the following sources:

(a) Dues and assessments collected from member chapters.
(b) Income realized from Conference and special projects.
(c) Donations, offerings and bequests.

2. All funds shall be deposited in the organization’s bank accounts and shall be used only for those purposes enumerated in Article II of the Constitution.

3. The Treasurer shall keep an up-to-date account of all financial transactions and it shall be the Auditors’ duty to verify the records not less than two (2) times a year and otherwise when deemed necessary. The financial records shall also be available for auditing by the Episcopate Council.

5. The AROY's fiscal year shall run from August 1 to July 31 of each year.

BY-LAWS OF AROY CHAPTERS
OF THE ROMANIAN ORTHODOX PARISHES
OF NORTH AMERICA

PREAMBLE

At all the important moments in Her history, the Orthodox Christian Church has benefited and flourished through the devotion and witness of Her entire membership—Clergy and faithful, and especially Her youth. As in ancient times, so it was and is in Romania, when Christ's Orthodox Church is persecuted by the forces of atheism. So it is also today, when North America's youth are called to be faithful to God and resist the pressures of materialistic and non-Orthodox practices and teachings.

In the very real sense, AROY is not some exclusive "club;" instead, the young people of the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America are the "American Romanian Orthodox Youth," working to together under the blessing of their Bishop, with the support of their parishes and the prayers of their families. "AROY" is more of a description than an organizational name. With this unity and vocation in mind,

Every parish under the jurisdiction of the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America shall take steps and make every effort, to incorporate the parish's young people into and AROY chapter.

The chapters shall function under the jurisdiction of the respective parish or parishes, and shall be governed by these By-laws, adopted by the AROY Conference and Approved by the Episcopate.

ARTICLE I
PURPOSE

1. To unite all the youth of the parish in a common effort for mutual encouragement, for maintaining, strengthening, and propagating the Holy Orthodox Faith.

2. To aid and support the parish in all its actions and programs.

3. To seek and maintain active membership in the American Romanian Orthodox Youth organization.

4. To initiate programs for the youth of the parish and to support those programs initiated by the AROY and the Episcopate.
5. To promote cooperation and love among the youth of the Church, to promote inter-Orthodox fellowship, common programs, and common witness to the non-Orthodox community.

ARTICLE II
MEMBERSHIP

1. Every young person chrismated in the Holy Orthodox Christian Faith, who practices the Faith and who partakes of Her Holy Mysteries in an established parish under jurisdiction of the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America is a member of AROY.

2. An Individual shall be considered active and shall enjoy all the rights and privileges provided by the Constitution and By-laws if he or she fulfills as a minimum the following obligations:

(a) Payment of such annual chapter dues as authorized by the Annual AROY Conference, and assessed by the chapter.
(b) Practicing the Faith by partaking of the Churches Holy Mysteries, and striving to honor and live God’s Holy Gospel as preached and witnessed by the Orthodox Church.
(c) Participating, cooperating, and supporting the activities and programs of the local chapter, of AROY of the parish and of the Episcopate.

3. Any Non-Orthodox person, being ineligible for active membership in an established chapter, may be accepted as a social member of said chapter. Social members shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges of the chapter, except the rights of voting and holding office as an officer or as a delegate to the AROY Conference.

4. Any member who fails for a period of one (1) year to fulfill the obligations of Paragraph two (2) above may be declared by the local chapter as inactive, losing all privileges and rights of the local chapter and the AROY organization.

ARTICLE III
LEGAL POWERS

1. The chapter shall function under the chapter granted by the AROY organization.

2. The parish priest shall be the Spiritual Father and Advisor of the chapter and is an ex-officio member of the local Board.

3. The AROY organization and the Parish Council each have the authority to audit the chapter financial records and to approve its major projects and activities.

ARTICLE IV
EXECUTIVE POWERS

1. All executive powers shall be vested in the chapter Board, elected by the chapter Electoral meeting.

2. The Chapter Board shall consist of:

(a) the following elected officers:
   1. A President;
   2. A Vice-President;
   3. A Secretary;
   4. A Treasurer;
   5. Two (2) Auditors.
(b) The following members ex officio:
   1. The parish priest;
   2. Advisors, appointed by the parish priest.

3. The President with the approval of the chapter board may appoint special working committees when necessary.

4. The parish priest shall appoint advisors either at the chapter’s request or on his own initiative.

5. The term of office for the members of the chapter Board shall be one (1) year. A member of the chapter Board may not serve more than two (2) consecutive terms in the same office.

6. In the event of a vacancy in the office of chapter President between election, the Vice President shall become the acting President for the un-expired term. In the event of a vacancy in any other elected office between elections, the chapter, at a special meeting called for that purpose, shall elect a qualified person to fill the vacancy.

7. The president may call a meeting of the board at any time deemed necessary.

8. Duties and powers of the Chapter Board:

(a) To carry out the decisions of the AROY Conference and the local chapter.
(b) By February 1 of each year, to prepare and send to the AROY Executive Board a current name and address list of all chapter members, as the term is defined in chapter By-laws Article II, Paragraph 1, above.

(c) To disburse funds in accordance with resolutions of the chapter meeting.

9. The duties and powers of a local AROY chapter should be:
   (a) To initiate and implement new programs and projects consistent with the decisions of the chapter, the AROY Executive Board, and the AROY Conference.
   (b) To work toward carrying out the purposes of AROY chapters as stated in these By-laws.

10. Duties of the Officers of the Chapter Board:
   (a) The President: Is the chief executive officer exercising the general supervision of the work and activities of the chapter, and shall preside at all meetings of the chapter and its Board; and shall receive and resolve all communications with the AROY Executive Board; and shall be a member ex officio of the Parish Council; and shall be responsible for the presentation of an Annual Chapter Report to the January Parish General Assembly (Sinod).

   (b) The Vice President: In the event of the absence or inability of the President to perform or discharge the duties of office, or when so delegated by the President, the Vice President has the same authority as the President, and shall perform other duties assigned by the chapter Board.

   (c) The Secretary: Together with the President, shall be responsible for signing all official documents issued by the chapter; and shall be responsible for the minutes of all meetings of the chapter and its Board. These minutes must be written in a permanent Minute Book purchased expressly for such purpose, and when a Minute Book is completed it must be entrusted to the Parish Priest for archival safekeeping. The Secretary is also responsible for outgoing correspondence and notification to the membership of all Chapter and Board meetings.

   (d) The Treasurer: Shall be responsible for all of the chapter’s financial operations, and shall receive and disburse chapter funds and payments as authorized by the chapter; the Treasurer shall transact all business through the depository as designated by the chapter general meeting; and shall keep the financial records at the Auditors’ disposal, shall produce the records upon the Auditors’ request, and shall present an Annual Financial report to the Parish General Assembly, as well as a financial report at every chapter meeting.

   (e) The Auditors: Shall audit all chapter financial books at least two (2) times a year. In addition, together with the Treasurer, the Auditors shall be responsible for the preparation and presentation of the budget.

**ARTICLE V
FINANCES**

1. To achieve its goals and programs and those of the AROY organization, each chapter may collect and possess its own funds which may be derived from the following sources:
   (a) Dues collected from members.
   (b) Income realized from special projects.
   (c) Donations, offerings, and bequests.

2. All funds shall be deposited in the chapter’s bank accounts and shall be used only for those purposes set fourth in Article II of the Constitution of AROY. All checks and financial transactions shall be signed by the Treasurer and countersigned by either the President or Vice President.

3. Each chapter’s fiscal year shall run from August 1 to July 31 of the following year.

**ARTICLE VI
CHAPTER MEETINGS**

1. Chapter meetings shall be called by the President as often as necessary, but it shall be mandatory that a meeting be held at least once every two (2) months.

2. Notification of chapter meetings and the agenda must be in writing and sent to each member at least one (1) week before the meeting being called.
3. Six (6) members in good standing shall constitute a quorum to open and conduct business in a chapter meeting.

4. The following are the powers and responsibilities of the local chapter meeting:
   (a) To elect chapter officers.
   (b) To authorize all expenditures.
   (c) To assess and collect dues and contributions of the chapter members.
   (d) To establish programs for the fulfillment of the AROY purposes.
   (e) To elect delegates to the Annual AROY Conference.

5. Voting in chapter meetings shall be:
   (a) By a raising of hands.
   (b) By a secret ballot if called for by a majority of those present and voting at the meeting.
   (c) There shall be no vote by proxy.

6. The minutes of each chapter meeting shall be presented for approval at the next chapter meeting.

**ARTICLE VII**

**AMENDMENTS**

1. Any proposed amendments to AROY’s Constitution and By-laws shall be formally submitted in writing to the Secretary of AROY at least sixty (60) days prior to the date of the Conference.

2. The Secretary of AROY in turn shall send a copy of all proposed amendments to the Constitution and By-laws to all Board Members, to the Secretary of each chapter and to each AROY National Past President not later than thirty (30) days before the date of the Conference. Amendments to the Constitution and By-laws shall be presented and adopted only at a specific legislative Conference of AROY by two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present at the meeting.

**ARTICLE VIII**

**MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

1. These Constitution and By-laws of the American Romanian Orthodox Youth and of its local chapters shall take effect immediately after adoption at the Conference, provided they are approved by the Episcopate.

2. The Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America shall be the final authority regarding interpretation of AROY’s Constitution and By-laws.

3. In the Absence of specific procedures prescribed by these Constitution and By-laws, the current authorized edition of *Robert’s Rules of Order* shall apply.