

## BY-LAWS OF THE 9-12 PROJECT IN MENTOR, OH

### PREAMBLE

*“God grants liberty only to those who love it, and are always ready to guard and defend it.”* - Daniel Webster, 1834

The foundation of **The 9-12 Project in Mentor, OH** is based upon the Judeo-Christian Founding Principles of The United States of America and the freedom and protection of individual rights as guaranteed to citizens by the United States Constitution. We believe the principles of individual freedom, personal responsibility, limited government, the rule of law, free enterprise, virtuous citizenship, and economic opportunity for all citizens – regardless of race, creed, or color – are best suited to preserve our nation as it was founded. It is the return to these principles and ideals that we seek at every level of government.

Our members will fulfill their duties and responsibilities as citizens by actively participating in the democratic process and by holding elected officials – at all levels of government – accountable to the Founding Principles of our Framers as defined in the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, and the accompanying Bill of Rights.

### MISSION STATEMENT

Our Mission is to Inspire, Educate, Empower and Encourage to action, the citizens of this Republic, regarding the noble Principles and Values on which the United States of America was founded.

### ARTICLE I NAME

The official name of this organization shall be: **The 9-12 Project in Mentor, OH** and shall also be known as **The Mentor 9-12 Project**.

### ARTICLE II PURPOSE

#### Section 2.01 ORIGIN

- (a) **The 9-12 Project in Mentor, OH** is a non-partisan grassroots citizen’s public interest group inspired by nationally syndicated talk show host Glenn Beck and is established on *The 9 Principles* and *The 12 Values* as outlined on The 9-12 Project website: <http://www.the912project.com/>
- (b) The 9 Principles are:
  - (1) America Is Good.
  - (2) I believe in God and He is the Center of my Life.
  - (3) I must always try to be a more honest person than I was yesterday.
  - (4) The family is sacred. My spouse and I are the ultimate authority, not the government.

- (5) If you break the law you pay the penalty. Justice is blind and no one is above it.
- (6) I have a right to life, liberty and pursuit of happiness, but there is no guarantee of equal results.
- (7) I work hard for what I have and I will share it with who I want to. Government cannot force me to be charitable.
- (8) It is not un-American for me to disagree with authority or to share my personal opinion.
- (9) The government works for me. I do not answer to them, they answer to me.

**(c) The 12 Values are:**

Honesty  
Reverence  
Hope  
Thrift  
Humility  
Charity  
Sincerity  
Moderation  
Hard Work  
Courage  
Personal Responsibility  
Gratitude

**Section 2.02 OBJECTIVES**

The 9-12 Project in Mentor, OH shall have the following objectives:

- (a) INSPIRE** - Throughout civilization, all the major breakthroughs in science, art and government came about by inspired thinking - and by inspiring others. Using modern technology to bring history back to life, we intend to inspire a new generation of American Patriots to cherish our past by insuring our future. Through personal interactions with others, we will gather together like-minded people who desire to see a return to a form and character of government consistent with historical example and the original intent of the signers of the U.S. Declaration of Independence and The Constitution of the United States of America.
- (b) EDUCATE** - Thomas Jefferson said, *“Enlighten the people generally, and tyranny and oppressions of body and mind will vanish like evil spirits at the dawn of day.”* Until and unless Americans become educated as to the brilliance, simplicity and functionality of the Constitution, the United States of America will continue its slide down the path of socialism and tyranny. We will offer educational programs, in meetings, in seminars, and in rallies. We will direct the members of the organization to historical documents, books, literature, multi-media presentations, etc. for their personal edification and education so as to strengthen their understanding and breadth of knowledge on constitutional and cultural matters.
- (c) EMPOWER** - To make a difference, to embrace the best of the past to help mold the future of this great nation, we must use all these tools to ignite the flames of change - motivating a new generation of American patriots who know that *“who we are is who we were.”* Engage members of the organization through peaceful means with the intent to

affect and turn back the current slide away from historical example and the original intent of U.S. constitutional government through activities such as petitions, letter writing, demonstrations, meetings, voting, etc.

- (d) **ENCOURAGE TO ACTION** - Although it may be said that the first half-century of mass communications offered a less than enlightening perspective on the affairs of man, favoring instead to be content with exploring the medium itself, **The 9-12 Project in Mentor, OH** embraces modern communications technology to expand awareness and to inform, inspire and motivate new patriots.
- (e) **NON-PARTISAN** - Political parties can be a great asset to America, and their continued success becomes more important to individuals and elected officials than the governments they have been created to lead. **The 9-12 Project in Mentor, OH** shall remain strictly non-partisan in American politics, favoring instead to root our efforts in reviving the spirit, honor and principles of the Founders. **The 9-12 Project in Mentor, OH** does not implicitly or explicitly endorse any national, state or local political party nor candidates for elected office.
- (f) **INNOVATE** - Some believe that our Constitution is “out of date” and that the freedom and liberties endowed on us by God and guaranteed to us by the Constitution were prepared by men in an era long gone. They would alter their very principles. We understand that the Constitution is not perfect, that the founders understood and allowed for modifications - not based on changes in society, but rather on reinforcing liberty. We promote innovation by encouraging individual expression and streamlining government, not by altering our principles.

## **ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP**

### ***Section 3.01 Membership Categories***

Membership in **The 9-12 Project in Mentor, OH** shall consist of the following categories:

- (a) **Active Member** – a person who pays yearly dues as established by the Board of Directors and has voting privileges. Active Members may hold office and serve on the Board of Directors. Active Members do not pay regular meeting fees.
- (b) **Intermediate Member** – a person who pays yearly dues at a reduced amount as established by the Board of Directors and has voting privileges. Intermediate Members may hold office and serve on the Board of Directors. Intermediate Members pay regular meeting fees at those meeting they attend. *(As amended 6-9-2010)*
- (c) **Associate Member** – a person who attends meetings and pays a meeting fee in lieu of Annual Dues but does not have any voting privileges during elections or motions from the floor and may not hold office or serve on the Board of Directors. Associate Members may hold Committee positions including Chairmanships if so appointed by the President or Board of Directors.
- (d) **Honorary Member** – a distinguished person, who by reason of their service to our country in some honorable capacity, is recognized and honored by the Board of Directors. By unanimous accolades, **Glenn Beck** shall be considered the first Honorary Member of **The 9-12 Project in Mentor, OH**.

- (e) **Founding Member** – a designation given to any member who attended the original Glenn Beck broadcast on March 13, 2009 at Damon’s Grill in Mentor, OH and is also an Active or Associate Member.
- (f) **Charter Member** – a designation given to any member who joins during the first 60 days after ratification of these By-Laws and qualifies for membership as an Active or Associate Member. (As amended 6-9-2010)

### ***Section 3.02 Membership Qualifications***

Any United States citizen who is registered to vote and who supports the values, mission, and purpose outlined in the aforementioned Preamble and Article II, may apply to be a Member of **The 9-12 Project in Mentor, OH** subject to the classifications listed above.

Membership will be contingent upon agreement with the following conditions:

- (a) Members must agree to support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America and the Bill of Rights.
- (b) Members must agree with at least 7 of the 9 Principles of **The 9-12 Project** as listed in Article II, Section 2.01 (b). Members do not need to publicly indicate which Principles they do not agree with, if any.
- (c) Members must certify that they oppose the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals.
- (d) Members agree not to use the name of **The 9-12 Project in Mentor, Oh** or any logo or symbols thereof, in any way that can be construed as an endorsement without the consent of the Executive Board.
- (e) Members must sign and date a membership application attesting to their recognition and acceptance of the above conditions of membership.
- (f) Members have the right to withdraw their membership at any time by notifying the Secretary in writing.
- (g) Members who demonstrate conduct inconsistent with the above stated conditions of membership will be removed from membership, based on a 2/3 majority vote of the Board of Directors.
- (h) All Active Members in good standing will have the right to vote on all motions, amendments and elections.
- (i) Voting on all motions on the floor will be done if a quorum is present, and will pass with a majority vote.
- (j) The conditions set forth in Article III, Section 3.01 (§1 and 2), comprising the foundation of the organization, shall be immutable regardless of any motions or amendments put forth.
- (k) Members who are eligible to vote may utilize a written proxy for all votes.
  - (1) Proxies will only be considered valid if it contains the name and signature of the absent member who is eligible to vote.

## **ARTICLE IV BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS**

### ***Section 4.01 Board of Directors***

A Board of Directors shall be the primary governing body of **The Mentor 9-12 Project in Mentor, OH** and shall direct the business of the organization to facilitate the mission as

provided by law, and the By-Laws of the organization. This Board shall be elected from the membership and consist of 5 Officers and 4 Directors-at-Large and shall have the plenary power in all matters affecting the welfare of this organization.

### ***Section 4.01 Officers***

The officers shall be:

President  
Vice-President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Sergeant at Arms

### ***Section 4.02 Executive Committee***

The Officers shall comprise the Executive Committee and shall be members of the Board of Directors.

### ***Section 4.03 Duties***

**(a) President** - The President shall be the chief executive officer and shall preside at all board meetings and meetings of the general membership, appoint committees and perform other duties as associated with the office.

**(b) Vice President** - The Vice President shall assist the President to carry out his/her duties and perform such duties as may be assigned by the Board of Directors. The Vice President will assume the duties of the President in the absence or disability of the President, until the latter shall return, or his/her successor shall be chosen and qualified.

**(c) Treasurer** - The Treasurer shall collect all monies and have general supervision over the finances of **The 9-12 Project in Mentor, OH** and shall direct changes of importance in accounting methods, is authorized to countersign checks, when supported by necessary documents, for such expenditures as are allowable under the annual budget of the organization. The Treasurer shall make reports to the Board of Directors each month and to the general membership when directed by the Board.

**(d) Secretary** - The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee, the annual general membership meeting, and any specially-called general membership meetings. The Secretary is responsible for assuring notification to the membership of all called general membership meetings.

**(e) Sergeant-at-Arms** - The Sergeant-at-Arms will help maintain order during all gatherings and meetings, will supervise vote counting any time written ballots are used for elections for amendments to the By-Laws or Constitution and will act as the chief parliamentarian and shall decide all issues of parliamentary procedure according to Robert's Rules of Order.

**(f) Directors-at-Large** - There shall be four (4) At-Large Directors who shall represent the interests of the group as a whole. They may serve as Committee Chairmen and fill other roles as directed by the Board.

#### ***Section 4.04 Voting***

##### **(a) Voting of the Board of Directors**

A majority of Board Members constitutes a quorum of the Board of Directors. In the absence of a quorum, no formal action shall be taken except to adjourn the meeting to a subsequent date. Passage of a motion by the Board of Directors requires a simple majority of the board.

##### **(b) Voting of the Executive Committee**

A majority of Executive Committee members constitutes a quorum. In the absence of a quorum, no formal action shall be taken except to adjourn the meeting to a subsequent date. Passage of a motion by the Executive Committee requires a simple majority.

#### ***Section 4.05 Board Meetings***

The Board of Directors shall meet at regular intervals determined by them. Written notice of the time and location of the meeting shall be given to all Board Members at least 7 days before the meeting. The location of the meetings may be any location.

### **ARTICLE V ELECTIONS OF BOARD MEMBERS**

#### ***Section 5.01***

- (a)** Regular elections shall be held the first general meeting after March 13th of the calendar year.
- (b)** Elected Board members shall take office at the first general meeting in April of that calendar year, or in the case of a special election, at the next general meeting.
- (c)** Candidates for Board positions must be Active or Intermediate Members eligible to vote.
- (d)** Candidates for Board positions shall be nominated by eligible voting members at a regularly scheduled meeting, at least one week prior to the election, when a quorum is in attendance.
- (e)** Elections will be held at the next scheduled meeting, either general or special meeting as determined by the current board.
- (f)** The winner of the election will be decided by a majority vote. If there are more than two candidates running for a position, and no candidate is able garner more than 50% of the votes, there shall be a run-off election between the two highest vote earners, with the highest vote earner being decided as the winner.
- (g)** Voting shall be done by secret balloting. The Sergeant-at-Arms will oversee the tabulation of the results. The Sergeant-at-Arms will present the tabulation to the Executive Committee for ratification.
- (h)** Ratification of the votes will be made by the unanimous approval of the Executive Board.
- (i)** Votes can be appealed to the Executive Board, where a full recount by the board will be made and the winner determined.

- (j) The order that the Executive officers are listed above shall stand as the order of temporary ascension in the event of absence.
- (k) Board members shall serve without compensation.
- (l) Board members holding an Executive position (Officer) shall serve a 1 year term. Board Members may not serve more than two consecutive terms in the same position.
- (m) At-Large Board members shall serve a two year term with two (2) members being elected every other year.
  - (1) For the first elections held after approval of these By-Laws, two At-Large Board members shall be elected for (1) one year terms and (2) two At-Large Board members shall be elected for two (2) year terms.
- (n) In the event of resignation or incapacitation of a Board Member, the vacancy shall be filled at a regular meeting by a vote of the members authorized to vote.
  - (1) Candidates for the vacant Board position shall be nominated by eligible voting members at a regularly scheduled meeting designated by the Board, at least one week prior to the election, when a quorum is in attendance.
  - (2) Elections will be held at the next scheduled meeting, either general or special meeting as determined by the Board under the parameters established in Article V, Elections of Board Members, Section 5.01(a), lines 6 through 9. *(As amended 8-18-2010)*

## **ARTICLE VI DUES**

### **Section 6.01**

- (a) Annual membership dues will be established by the Board of Directors and shall be used to accomplish the mission and purpose of **The 9-12 Project in Mentor, OH**. The Board of Directors is committed to the highest standards of good stewardship, and will at all times be diligent to obtain the very best value for dollars spent.
- (b) Dues paying members shall be designated as “Active” members and shall enjoy all the rights, privileges and honors of membership including voting rights.
- (c) After the initial membership enrollment of 2010, all subsequent annual membership renewals shall be due on April 1<sup>st</sup>. The Secretary will notify members of renewal by March 1<sup>st</sup>.
- (d) Members who fail to pay their renewal dues by April 30<sup>th</sup> shall be in default and such omission shall constitute suspension of all rights and privileges as an Active Member and the member shall be dropped from the rolls as an Active Member but may still may be considered as Associate Member.
- (e) Dues may be pro-rated for members who join after the start of the fiscal year at the direction of the Board of Directors.
- (f) Dues are non-refundable.

## **ARTICLE VII MEETINGS**

### **Section 7.01 General Meetings**

- (a) General Meetings shall be held monthly or more frequently if directed by the Board of Directors, at a time and place announced to the membership no later than one week prior to the scheduled meeting.
- (b) All general meetings will open with the Pledge of Allegiance and an Invocation.

### ***Section 7.02 Meeting Fees***

The Board of Directors shall establish a Meeting Fee amount to be collected at all regular and special meetings to defray the cost of necessary expenses. This fee will be collected from all Associate Members, non-members and guests, but not invited speakers, who attend meetings and have not paid yearly dues.

### ***Section 7.03 Annual Meeting***

An annual membership meeting shall take place each year in March on a date as close to the 13<sup>th</sup> of the month as is feasible. The Board of Directors shall give special consideration to the schedule for this meeting. The primary purpose of the Annual Meeting shall be the election of Officers and Board members and a report from the President on the State of the Organization.

Notice of the Annual Meeting shall be sent by the Secretary to each member of **The 9-12 Project in Mentor, OH** at least seven (7) days prior to the date of said meeting.

### ***Section 7.04 Special Meetings***

- (a) Special meetings may be called as needed by the President or by request of a majority of the Board of Directors or by a request by 4/5ths of the Executive Committee or upon written request of 20% of the Active Members. Written notice of the meeting, time, and place shall be presented to all members in person, in writing or by electronic means at least one week before the meeting.
- (b) All Special Meeting notices must state the purpose of the meeting. Discussion shall be limited to the topics for which the Special Meeting was called. A quorum must be attained in order to conduct business.
- (c) Each Active Member shall have one vote, but the privilege of attendance and discussion at any Special Meeting shall be extended to all members

### ***Section 7.05 Quorum***

A quorum for the transaction of regular business at any meeting of the organization shall be 1/3 of the Active Members in good standing.

## **ARTICLE VIII AMENDMENTS**

### ***Section 8.01***

- (a) These By-Laws may be amended, repealed, or altered, in whole or in part, by a vote of the Board of Directors, three-fourths ( $\frac{3}{4}$ ) of the full Board being necessary to carry the motion.
- (b) The Secretary shall notify the membership of any significant changes in the By-Laws.

## **ARTICLE IX RULES OF ORDER**

### ***Section 9.01***

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern this organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order the organization may adopt.

## **ARTICLE IX DISSOLUTION**

### ***Section 10.01***

In the event of dissolution of the organization, affirmed by a unanimous vote of the full Board of Directors, all debts will be paid and settled and all remaining monies associated with the organization shall be donated to the Salvation Army.