

DCART By-Laws

Article I. Name

The name of this Organization shall be the Directors' Consortium for Anthropological Research in Taphonomy (DCART).

Article II. Purpose

The Directors' Consortium for Anthropological Research in Taphonomy (DCART) is committed to promote free information exchange between directors on subjects pertinent to the duties, responsibilities, and privileges of the position of directing an outdoor human decomposition research facility; facilitate collaborative research between facilities; and share educational opportunities.

Article III. Membership

A. Memberships:

- 1.) The voting members of this organization shall be a director of an established outdoor decomposition facility using donated human remains for research and educational purposes.
 - a.) The membership list shall be listed on the DCART website.
- 2.) An individual becomes a voting member by virtue of her/his appointment by the administration of her/ his institution and her/his agreement to join DCART.
- 3.) Non-voting members may join DCART if they have an interest in human taphonomic research.
 - a.) An individual becomes a non-voting member by applying to the executive committee, who will evaluate the applicant's record and interest in researching human taphonomy.
- 4.) All members, voting and non-voting, must agree to abide by the ethical code of DCART.
- 5.) Each outdoor human decomposition research facility shall only have one voting member.
- 6.) The voting member may appoint a proxy representative from the current membership by informing the DCART Chairperson in writing at least one hour before the annual meeting.

B. Privileges and Responsibility of Membership:

- 1.) Voting: Each voting member is entitled to one equal vote.
 - a.) A vote may be assigned to a proxy by the member as described in III.A.6
- 2.) Participation: Each member shall be entitled to participate in all organizational events.
- 3.) Responsibilities: Each member shall attend the annual meeting of DCART.
 - a.) Failure to attend three consecutive annual meetings without naming a proxy shall terminate the member's membership in DCART.

Article IV: Membership Meetings

- A. The business meeting of the membership will be held at the time and place of the annual American Academy of Forensic Sciences meetings (February).

- B. The Chairperson shall notify all members of the time and place of the annual meeting by November 1 of the preceding year.
- C. Quorum: At all meetings of the organization, a quorum shall consist of at least 51% of the voting members.

Article V. Officers

- A. Titles: DCART shall have the following officers elected from the current membership:

- 1.) Chairperson
- 2.) Vice-chairperson
- 3.) Secretary

- B. Qualifications

- 1.) The Officers shall be elected by the DCART organization and serve a three-year term.
- 2.) Officers must be actively engaged in taphonomic studies, as demonstrated by publications, training or educational activities, or other scholarly activity.

- C. Duties of the Officers:

- 1.) The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings and be responsible for appointing committees, represent DCART to federal, state, and private agencies and other professional organizations, disseminate meeting information, and shall perform such other duties as usually required of this office. The Chairperson of the organization shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.
- 2.) The Vice-Chairperson shall act in the absence of the Chairperson in all capacities as listed above, shall be the parliamentarian for the organization, and shall assist in conducting the business of the organization.
- 3.) The Secretary shall maintain an accurate membership list, record the minutes of the annual meetings, and other duties as assigned by the Chairperson.

- D. Terms of Office

- 1.) Officers shall be elected every three years by secret ballot at the annual meetings by majority vote of the members in attendance or those who have provided a proxy, presuming the quorum was met.
 - a.) The initial terms of office shall be staggered to create an election cascade with one officer elected each year.
 - b.) The initial Chairperson term shall be three years.
 - c.) The initial Vice-Chairperson term shall be two years.
 - d.) The initial Secretary term shall be one year.
- 2.) Each officer shall take office at the conclusion of the annual meeting in which s/he is elected.
- 3.) Officers may serve no more than two consecutive terms in any one position.

- E. Vacancies and Removal

- 1.) Vacancy in the office of the Chairperson shall be filled by the Vice-Chairperson unless

s/he is unable to serve, at which time the vacancy shall be filled by election of the members by a majority of votes cast.

- a.) the Secretary will assume the duties of Vice-Chairperson in addition to the duties of the Secretary until the time of the next election.
 - b.) At the next annual meeting a special election shall be held to fill the Chairperson vacancy for the remainder of the original term.
- 2.) Vacancy in the office of the Vice-Chairperson shall be filled by the Secretary, who will also continue to perform the duties of the Secretary.
 - 3.) Vacancy in the office of the Secretary shall be filled by the Vice-Chairperson, who will also continue to perform the duties of the Vice-Chairperson.
 - 4.) Any officer, including the Chairperson, may be removed from office or suspended from office by a vote of two-thirds of the members at a regular meeting. Removal or suspension may be with or without cause. The person under consideration shall be given an opportunity to be heard at the meeting with sufficient notice of the proposed removal or suspension, the person under consideration shall not be counted in determining the presence of a quorum, nor whether the required two-thirds vote has been obtained. Upon a vote of removal or suspension of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson shall preside at the meeting.

Article VI. Committees

- A. The Chairperson, subject to the approval of the organization, shall appoint such standing, special, or ad hoc committees as may be required by the bylaws, as s/he finds necessary. Committee chairpersons shall be appointed by and responsible to the Chairperson.
- B. A vacancy in a Committee chairperson position shall be filled by appointment of the Chairperson of the organization with input from the outgoing Committee Chairperson.

Article VII. Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the bylaws or the special rules of order of the organization.

Article VIII. Amendments

These bylaws may be amended by a vote of two-thirds of the members of the organization present at any regular meetings or at a special meeting called for that purpose. The membership shall be notified of adopted bylaw amendments by the most feasible means.

Accepted and Enacted February 2017