

BYLAWS OF MASSACHUSETTS JUSTICES OF THE PEACE ASSOCIATION, INC.
Proposed Revisions Draft – 10/3/2017

Article I Corporation

- Section 1. Name.....
- Section 2. Purpose.....
- Section 3. Motto.....
- Section 4. Seal.....
- Section 5. Fiscal Year.....

Article II Meetings

- Section 1. General Business Meetings.....
- Section 2. Annual Meeting.....
- Section 3. Meeting Quorum.....
- Section 4. Order of Business - Meetings.....
- Section 5. Order of Business – altered/suspended.....

Article III Fees and Dues

- Section 1. Initiation Fee.....
- Section 1. Annual Dues.....
- Section 2. Failure to Pay Dues.....

Article IV Membership

- Section 1. Qualifications.....
- Section 2. Application.....
- Section 3. Duration of Membership.....
- Section 4. Method of Electing Life Members.....
- Section 5. Honorary Membership.....
- Section 6. Termination of Membership.....

Article V General Funds (Subsections to be renumbered as needed)

- Section 1. Fund.....
- Section 2. Method of Payment.....
- Section 3. Bond.....
- Section 4. Incurring Obligations.....
- Section 5. ~~Secretarial Expenses~~ Secretary and Treasurer Expenses
- Section 6. Investment of Funds.....
- Section 7. ~~Incurring of Individual Expense~~.....
- Section 8. Committee Financial Reports.....
- Section 9. ~~General Funds~~.....

Article VI Duties of Officers and Directors

- Section 1. Association Officers.....
- Section 2. The President.....
- Section 3. Vice President.....
- Section 4. The Secretary.....
- Section 5. The Treasurer.....
- Section 6. Sergeant at Arms.....
- Section 7. Immediate Past President.....
- Section 8. Four (4) Directors
- Section 9. Change of Officers.....

Article VII Committees

Section 1. Appointments by President.....
Section 2. Standing Committees.....

Article VIII Elections

Section 1. ~~Nominating Committee~~ Recommendations **of the Nominating Committee**
Section 2. Election of Officers.....
Section 3. ~~Chairperson/~~ **Duties of the Nominating Committee Chairperson**.....
Section 4. ~~Officers Elect~~ **Installation of Officers**.....
Section 5. Terms of Officers.....

Article IX Dissolution

Section 1. Dissolution.....
Section 2. ~~Assets/Net Earnings~~ **Disposition of Assets or Net Earnings**
Section 3. **Disposition of** Remaining Assets.....

Article X Amendments

Section 1. Bylaws.....

Article XI Executive Board

Section 1. Duties of the Executive Board
~~Section 2. Composition of Executive Board.....~~
Section 3. Meetings of the Executive Board.....
Section 4. Executive Board Quorum.....
Section 5. Executive Board Resignations.....
Section 6. Removal **or Suspension** of **an** Executive Board member.....

Article XII Parliamentary Authority and Code of Ethics

Robert's Rules of Order.....
Code of Ethics.....

Massachusetts Justices of the Peace Association Ritual for the Installation of President
Ritual for Installation of Officers

Addendum

Ritual for the Installation of MJPA President

Ritual for Installation of Officers

Ritual for Installation of New Members

**Article I
Corporation**

Section 1. Name

This non-profit Corporation shall be known as the Massachusetts Justices of the Peace Association, Inc. acting within the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Section 2. Purpose

The purpose of this Corporation shall be to: (a) Aid and assist its members in the discharge of their duties; (b) Give counsel and advice on all important questions regarding the office of the Justice of the Peace. (c) Assist each other in all matters relating to the welfare of the association or the education of individual members thereof.

Section 3. Motto

The motto of this Corporation shall be: "Honor and Highest Ethics in Public Service"

Section 4. Seal

The seal of this Corporation shall consist of the scales of justice surrounded by the wording "Massachusetts Justices of the Peace Association, Inc" and "Honor and Highest Ethics in Public Service" on the bottom. "MCMLXXV" at the foot of the pedestal.

Section 5. Fiscal year

The fiscal year of the Massachusetts Justices of the Peace Association, Inc. shall commence on July 1 and end on June 30.

Article II Meetings

Section 1. General business meetings

General Business meetings of the Association shall be held up to 4 times per calendar year. ~~Three of the meetings shall usually be held in but not limited to the months of October, January and April.~~ One meeting shall be held in ~~May~~ or June and shall be known as the Annual Meeting.

- (a) The President or Executive Board may call special or general meetings for cause.
- (b) The President must call a special general meeting upon the written request of fifteen (15) members in good standing, provided that the notice states the business to be acted upon.
- (c) Notice of all general meetings, including special general meetings, shall be distributed to members via mail (USPS) or electronic mail (e-mail) to each member at least ten (10) business days prior to meeting date.

Section 2. Annual Meeting

The General Business meeting held in ~~June~~ or June shall be known as the Annual Meeting. Annual reports of standing committees will be given and election of officers and directors shall be held during the ~~June~~ Annual meeting.

Section 3. Meeting Quorum

Twenty five (25) members in good standing present at any general or special meeting of the Association shall constitute a quorum and if there be less than this number, the presiding officer shall not call the meeting to order until a quorum is present.

Section 4. The Order of Business - Meetings

The Order of Business at meetings shall be as follows: 1. Call to Order 2. Secretary's Report 3. Treasurer's Report 4. Committee Reports 5. Old Business 6. New Business
~~7. Good of the Order~~ 7. Adjournment

Section 5. Order of Business - Altered/Suspended

The order of business may be altered or suspended at any meeting by a majority vote of the members present. The usual parliamentary rules as laid down in "Robert's Rules of Order" shall govern all deliberations, when not in conflict with these bylaws.

Article III Fees and Dues

~~Section 1. Initiation Fee~~ The Executive Board shall determine a one-time initiation fee to be submitted with application for membership.

Section 1. Annual Dues

The annual dues for each member of the Association shall be determined by the Executive Board, and shall be due July 1st of each year.

Section 2. Failure to Pay Dues

Members who fail to pay their dues within fifteen (15) days from the time they are due shall be notified in writing and have fifteen (15) days to remit or without further notice and without a hearing shall be dropped from the rolls and thereupon forfeit all rights and privileges of membership. The Executive Board may prescribe procedures for extending the time for payment of dues and continuation of membership privileges upon request of a member and for good cause shown.

Article IV Membership

Section 1. Qualification

- (a) An applicant for membership must be commissioned to solemnize a wedding ceremony as a Justice of the Peace within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
- (b) An applicant must be of good moral character.
- (c) Membership shall not be denied to anyone otherwise qualified because of race, creed, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender preference, or national origin.

Section 2. Application

After review and approval of the application by the Membership Committee and upon receipt of initiation fee, prorated (as appropriate) annual dues, and copies a copy of the commission, said applicant shall be a member.

Section 3. Duration of Membership

Membership in the Association shall endure for the duration of the commission as a Justice of the Peace as long as dues are current.

Section 4. Method of Electing Life Members

- (a) Names of those to be so honored with life membership shall be proposed by the Executive Board at a scheduled general meeting, and then included in the notice of the next general meeting at which this election is to take place. A Two-Thirds (2/3s) vote of the members present and voting shall be necessary for election.
- (b) Following a Two-Thirds (2/3s) vote of the members present and voting, life membership with full privileges shall be conferred by the Association on its members whose work for the Association merits such honor.

Section 5. Honorary Membership

Any person who is not eligible for regular membership and who has distinguished him or herself or has rendered the Association important services or benefits, or any person who for other reasons the Association may see fit to

honor, may be elected an honorary member of the Association by a majority vote of the members present at any general business meeting. ~~They~~ **Honorary members** shall be exempt from all dues and assessments and shall be entitled to the privileges of the Association except voting, seniority and eligibility to hold office.

Section 6. Termination of Membership

(a) On termination of membership, all rights of membership including the right to hold office, vote, and use of the Association's registered logo may not be exercised.

(b) A member may be recommended by the Ethics ~~Committee,~~ for suspension from the Association for a designated period or may be expelled for cause such as violation of the bylaws or code of ethics of the Association, or for conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the Association.

(c) Notification of a suspension or expulsion hearing ~~in front of~~ **before** the Ethics Committee or Executive Board shall be sent to the affected member at least ten (10) business days prior to the hearing date. Such notice shall be ~~done~~ **sent** via USPS "~~registered/return receipt requested~~" or ~~other acceptable format e.g. but not limited to~~ **by UPS, or FedEx, or by email.**

(d) Suspension or expulsion shall be by a Two-Third ~~s~~ **s** (2/3**s**) vote of the general membership present and voting; ~~after the member who has been charged has had a reasonable opportunity to be heard by the Ethics Committee and/or the Executive Board and found to be in violation.~~

Article V Funds

Section 1. Funds

There shall be a legally established account in the name of the Association. **All Association funds shall be in the custody of the Treasurer.** The signatories of the account shall be the Treasurer and the President **and such other officer as the President may designate.** Separate accountings shall be established and maintained for each of the following funds:-

(a) General Funds Account: Monies appropriated under this fund shall be used for the operation of the Association and for certain ~~other phases of its~~ programs as set forth in its annual budget. Receipts and disbursements to this fund shall be administered by the Treasurer.

(b) Other Funds Accounts: May include Scholarships and Charities, or any other fund to be established at the discretion of the Executive Board.

(c) All fund accounts will be subject to an annual audit by ~~the Audit Committee~~ **a Certified Public Accountant on behalf of the MJPA.**

~~Section 2. Method of Payment~~ All obligations incurred by the Association shall be paid by check.

~~Section 3. Bond~~ The Treasurer, **the Assistant Treasurer** and the President shall be bonded in an amount determined by the Executive Board. Expenses so incurred shall be paid by the Association.

Section 2. Incurring Obligations

No expenses shall be incurred, no donation made, nor shall any obligations of any kind, **except as specified in Section 5,** involving Association funds be entered into unless approved by the Executive Board.

Section 3. Secretary and Treasurer Expenses

The secretary and treasurer shall be allowed, with the approval of the Executive Board, to contract bills not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for sundry expenses, concurrent with the discharge of his or her duties.

Section 4. Investment of Funds

Funds of the Association may be invested in United States Government Bonds, banks or other similar institutions, providing said bank or other institutions carries Federal insurance. The investment in any one bank or similar institution shall at all times be kept within the limits insured by that particular institution.

Section 7. Incurring of Individual Expense

~~Members of the Association, whether serving upon committees or in their private capacity as members, shall not incur any expenses in the name of, or for account of, the Association without first obtaining approval of the Executive Board.~~

Section 5. Committee Financial Reports

It is the duty and responsibility of each committee chairperson to submit a financial statement in writing to the Association showing income and expenditure ~~of that~~ for any event within one (1) month following the an event. The net proceeds shall immediately be remitted to the Treasurer for deposit into the general fund, after payment of or reimbursement for such expenditures.

~~**Section 9. Custody of Funds** All association funds shall be in the custody of the Treasurer and/or Assistant Treasurer.~~

Article VI Duties of Officers and Directors

Section 1. Officers and Directors of the Association: The Officers of this Association shall be: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant-at-Arms, Immediate Past President and fFour (4) Directors Each Officer and Director will discharge their duties (1) in good faith and (2) with the care an ordinary person in a like position would exercise under similar circumstances. and (3) in a manner the Officer and Director reasonably believes to be the best interest of the Association. ~~The Executive Board shall consist of the above-mentioned officers.~~

Section 2: The President

- (a) Shall be the principal elected officer of the Association.
- (b) Shall preside at meetings of the Association and of the Executive Board.
- (c) Shall be a member ex-officio, with the right to vote, on all committees except the Nominating and Ethics Committees.
- (d) Shall also, at the annual meeting of the Association and at such other times as the President shall deem proper, communicate with the Association and/or the Executive Board such matters and make such suggestions as may in the President's opinion tend to promote the welfare and increase the usefulness of the Association.
- (e) Shall run the day-to-day operations of the Association and shall perform such other duties as are necessarily incidental to the office of President or as may be prescribed by the Executive Board.
- (f) Shall have authorization for the expenditure of funds not to exceed five hundred (\$500.00) dollars per authorized association activity.
- (g) Shall appoint all committee chairpersons and a Parliamentarian, except where otherwise addressed in these Bylaws.

Section 3: The Vice President

- (a) Shall perform the duties of the President in the event of the President's temporary disability or absence from meetings.
- (b) Shall have such other duties as the President and Executive Board may assign.
- (c) In the event of death, incapacitating disability or removal of the President, the Vice President shall assume the office of President for the remainder of the term.
- (d) Shall oversee the operation of all committees and ensure that all committee reports are forthcoming from all chairpersons.

Section 4: The Secretary

- (a) Shall give timely notice of the Association and Executive Board meetings.
- (b) Shall keep a record of all proceedings, attest documents, and perform such other duties as prescribed by the Executive Board.
- (c) Shall provide minutes of the Executive Board meetings and mail or e-mail to all Board members within two (2) weeks after a meeting, the minutes of said meeting.

Section 5: The Treasurer

- (a) Shall keep an account of monies received and expended for the use of Association and shall make disbursements authorized by the President and Executive Board.
- (b) Shall present a statement of financial affairs at each regular meeting.
- (c) Shall submit all books and accounts for examination whenever required by the Executive Board.
- (d) Shall prepare appropriate financial reports for tax purposes and report in detail the receipts and expenditures for the year.
- (e) Shall mail out dues notices prior to June 1 of each year.
- (f) Shall make prepayment of necessary expenses not exceeding an amount of five hundred (\$500.00) dollars.
- (g) Shall furnish at the ~~direction~~ discretion of the Executive Board and at the expense of the Association, a fidelity bond. The Executive Board will determine the amount of bond, if any.
- (h) Shall handle all funds as described in this Article.

Section 6: Sergeant at Arms

Shall have custody of the paraphernalia of the Association. Shall deliver the President's gavel, banner, and membership identification pins and any other such items to all meetings. ~~Shall introduce the President at the beginning of all meetings.~~ Shall preserve order and decorum at meetings.

Section 7: Immediate Past President

Shall assist the President and members of the Board of Directors ~~in any capacity~~. The immediate Past President is defined as the person who preceded the current President as President. If there is no such office holder, then the position will remain vacant until the current President's term of office has expired.

Section 8: The Four (4) Directors shall serve on the Executive Board and as Chairpersons of standing committees.

Section 9: Change of Officers

It shall be the duty and obligation of all officers to turn over to their successors all records, correspondence related to their office and such other documents and materials as may pertain to their office. The foregoing obligation shall be completed not later than ten (10) days after the new officers have been installed.

Article VII Committees

Section 1. President

The President shall ~~annually~~ appoint such committees as may be required by the Bylaws or as the President may find necessary.

Section 2. Standing Committees

Standing committees shall consist of Nominating, Membership, Awards, Seminar, Legislative, Ethics, Communications and Justice Journal Committee, Bylaws, ~~and~~ Scholarship and Finance. ~~The Audit Committee will be separate from Finance Committee.~~ The President shall appoint all committee Chairpersons.

(a) Nominating Committee

During the month of April each year, the President shall appoint a Chairperson of the Nominating Committee, who will then form the Nominating Committee that will consist of the Chair, two (2) members of the Executive Board, and two (2) members of the general membership. No member running for office in any particular year shall be a member of the Nominating Committee. The Nominating committee shall propose and recommend a slate of officers and directors that consists of one nominee for each office to the membership and publish all proposed names on the meeting notice. It shall be the duty of the Chairperson to supervise all balloting, tallying of votes, and other procedures involved in the election of Officers and Directors. A nominated candidate for an office (including from the floor) must be present, acknowledging acceptance of nomination. Written or verbal acceptance to the nominating committee will be allowed ~~if warranted by extenuating circumstances~~.

(b) Membership Committee

It shall be the duty of the Membership Chairperson to accept applications for new members, seek active members for the Association, and to receive and recommend to the Executive Board applications for life and honorary (non-voting) membership.

(c) Awards Committee

Its duty shall be to select one or more award recipients to commemorate Richard M. Percoco, Sr. at the annual meeting in June of each year recognizing member(s) who have contributed outstanding and distinguished service to the Association.

(d) Seminar Committee

Its duty shall be to plan, promote and carry out educational seminars, which shall be designed to provide members of the Association with opportunities for continuing education. The Executive Board will determine the type and objective of each seminar as well as the number of seminars held. The committee members ~~selected by the Executive Board~~ shall promote and publicize the seminar sufficiently well in advance. ~~so that the maximum number of 11 prospective registrants may be informed of the date, location, speakers and program content.~~

(e) Legislative Committee

Its duty shall be to monitor legislation pertaining directly or indirectly to the Justices of the Peace; to inform the membership, and actively represent the Association in that regard.

(f) Ethics Committee

The Ethics Committee shall consist of ~~up to five (5) but no less than three (3) members~~; the Chairperson, appointed by the President, and up to ~~four~~ **two (2) other** members ~~of the general membership who are not current officers.~~

(g) Bylaws Committee

Its duty shall be to conduct a continuing review of the Bylaws of the Association and to propose such amendments as, in its judgment, are deemed necessary to coordinate and simplify the Bylaws and to eliminate conflicting and impracticable provisions therein. ~~This committee should consist of no less than three (3) members.~~

(h) Communications and Justice Journal Committee

This Committee shall keep the membership informed of Association activities and issues relating to Justices of the Peace as well as carry a message from the President using appropriate available media. The president ~~shall~~ **may** review all content prior to its publication and distribution.

(i) Finance Committee

Its duty shall be to review the finances and expenses for the past and current year to project a budget for the next fiscal year.

~~(j) Audit Committee: Will be responsible for the annual audit of the Association's books.~~

(k) Scholarship Committee

The Scholarship Committee shall consist of up to five (5) but no less than three (3) members; the Chairperson, appointed by the President and up to four (4) members of the general membership. The Scholarship Committee shall recommend to the Executive Board for approval, policies, procedures, practices and processes with regard to the Association scholarship program. The committee will annually review the scholarship application materials and revise as needed. The committee will evaluate applications for scholarships and make recommendations to the Executive Board for final approval and authorization regarding the scholarship fund budget, budget distribution in terms of number and amount of scholarships and scholarship recipients.

Article VIII

Elections

Section 1. Recommendations of the Nominating Committee

The recommendations of the Nominating committee shall be submitted to the Association in the notice for the Annual meeting to be held in May or June. Nominations from the floor will also be accepted.

Section 2. Election of Officers

At the June Annual meeting, the officers candidates, if unopposed, shall each be elected singularly by a single vote cast by the Secretary. If the office is contested, a simple majority of the votes cast by the membership attending is required for the election to that office. The criteria to become an officer of the Association shall be that the member must be in good standing and present at the meeting. If extenuating circumstances warrant, written or verbal acceptance to the position will be allowed.

Section 3. Duties of the Nominating Committee Chairperson

The chairperson of the Nominating Committee shall preside over the meeting during the election. The chairperson shall appoint a judge and two (2) tellers vote counters, neither of whom shall be a candidate for office. The judge chairperson and tellers the vote counters, after collection and counting the ballots, will duly record the results of the election and present the report to the presiding officer, who will be responsible for announcing the results to the members present. Any questions concerning or challenges to the results shall be made at this time. If there are no challenges, the results will be accepted and the vote declared valid.

Section 4. Installation of Officers

The officers-elect shall be installed immediately following the election and assume office on July 1.

Section 5. Terms of Officers and Directors

(a) The officers shall be elected for a term of two (2) years.

(b) Officers, with the exception of the President, may be elected for more than two (2) consecutive terms. The President may not be elected for more than two (2) consecutive terms.

(c) Any elected officer may be recommended for impeachment and removal from office for flagrant neglect of the duties of office after failure to respond to a "no confidence" vote. Such action requires a two-thirds (2/3s) vote of the members present and voting at the next general meeting.

(d) Any officer who has three (3) unexcused absences for consecutive meetings or unexcused absences for fifty (50%) percent of the overall Executive Board and General Business meetings will be subject to review for dismissal at the discretion of the Executive Board.

(e) Vacancies in any office, other than President, may be filled for the unexpired term of that office by a nomination from the President and confirmed with a majority vote of the Executive Board, at any scheduled Executive Board meeting.

Article IX Dissolution

Section 1. Dissolution

This Corporation may dissolve its affairs upon the adoption of a resolution to do so by the Association Membership at a meeting called and held at which a quorum is present.

Section 2. Disposition of Assets or Net Earnings

No part of the assets or net earnings of the Corporation shall be distributed for the benefit of any member or officer; provided however, that payment of reasonable compensation for expenses incurred may be made, after approval of the Executive Board.

Section 3. Disposition of Remaining Assets

All remaining assets after the satisfaction of just debts and charges shall be transferred or conveyed, **by vote of the Executive Board prior to dissolution**, to one or more organizations having 501 (C) 3 status within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Article X Amendments

Section 1. Bylaws

(a) Amendments **proposed by members** must be presented in writing to the Bylaws Committee prior to introduction to the general membership.

(b) Amendments shall be introduced by the Bylaws Committee and ~~read~~ **presented** at a general meeting or special general meeting and notice given in writing of the proposed amendments to all members at least ten (10) calendar days before the next general or special general meeting, at which time a vote will be taken. Amendments to these Bylaws shall be adopted at any general meeting or special general meeting by a two-thirds (2/3~~s~~) vote of those present and qualified to vote.

(c) ~~Approved~~ **A** Amendments become effective when approved.

Article XI Executive Board

Section 1. Duties of the Executive Board

The Executive Board shall have supervision and direction of the affairs of the Association, **and** shall determine its policies or changes within the limits of the Bylaws. ~~and shall actively execute its purpose.~~ The Board shall have discretion in the disbursements of funds exceeding five hundred (\$500) dollars, for pre-budgeting special events. It may adopt such rules and regulations for the conduct of its business as shall be deemed advisable.

~~**Section 2. Composition of the Executive Board**~~

~~The Executive Board shall be composed of President, Vice President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Sergeant at Arms, Immediate Past President and Four (4) Directors.~~

Section 3. Meetings of the Executive Boards

A minimum of six (6) meetings of the Board shall be held annually. Additional or Special meetings of the Executive Board may be called by the President or any three (3) members of the Executive Board provided that notification is given by telephone or in writing at least five (5) days prior to the meeting. The notice must state the business to be presented.

Section 4. Executive Board Quorum

At any meeting of the Executive Board, a quorum shall require a majority of the members of that body to be present. In case there should be less than this number, the presiding officer shall not call the meeting to order until a quorum is present.

Section 5. Executive Board Resignations

Any member of the board may resign at any time by giving written notice to the President, Secretary, or orally, to the Executive Board at an Executive Board meeting. Such resignation shall be effective immediately.

Section 6. Removal or Suspension of an Executive Board Member

(a) Any board member may be removed from office for failure to comply with the duties of his, her, or their office and/or for not abiding by the Code of Ethics and/or the Bylaws of the Association by a two-thirds (2/3s) vote of those members present and voting at any general or special general meeting of the Association at which a quorum is present. Reasons for dismissal must be so stated.

(b) Any board member may be suspended from office for failure to comply with the duties of his, her, or their office and/or for not abiding by the Code of Ethics and/or the Bylaws of the Association by a two-thirds (2/3s) vote of ~~at least seven (7) members of~~ the Executive Board present and voting at any Executive Board meeting at which a quorum is present. Reasons for suspension must be so stated.

(c) The President may make a temporary appointment to fill the office until the matter is adjudicated.

Article XII Parliamentary Authority and Code of Ethics

Robert's Rules of Order

Robert's Rules of Order (revised) shall be the parliamentary authority and guide in the conducting of all Association business functions not covered in these by-laws.

Code of Ethics

Members are obliged to ~~adhere to the Code of Ethics of the Association and to~~ conduct themselves in accordance with the Bylaws of the Association and to adhere to the Code of Ethics of the Association which state:

1. Members will transact all business of the Association through proper channels and hold inviolate all confidential information.
2. Members will refrain from using the Association to exploit personal views or personal advancement.
3. Members will not engage in conduct that conflicts with the best interests of the Association or any member of the Association.
4. Members will use ethical procedures in the practicing of their profession.
5. Members will advertise in such a way as to comply with advertising regulations specified in M.G.L. c. 207 Section 58 or as amended.

ADDENDUM

Massachusetts Justices of the Peace Association Ritual For the Installation of President

_____, as President, you have been elected to the highest office the Massachusetts Justices of the Peace Association can confer upon its members. The Association reposes great trust and confidence in its leader. You will be responsible for the advancement of the principles of the Massachusetts Justices of the Peace Association, through programs of educational, interest and welfare activities. You will preside at all meetings, and perform all other duties described by the Constitution and the laws of parliamentary procedure pertaining to your office. You shall appoint all committees, and conduct yourself at all times in a manner which will bring credit and admiration to the Massachusetts Justices of the Peace Association. You are entrusted with the duties granted by the Massachusetts Justices of the Peace Association with all the rights and privileges conferred by it, as well as all the duties and obligations imposed by it. You shall consider this your most sacred charge. Guard it as evidence of the faith and trust shown by your fellow justices and, at the end of your term, pass it on to your successor in office as the most cherished possession of your association. Mr./Madam President I present you with this gavel the symbol of your authority. Use it with impartiality, firmness and decision in the best interests of your Association. May you be guided by wisdom and discretion, and may you be faithful to your trust.

Please raise your right hand and repeat with me the following oath: I, (Name), having been elected to the office of President of the Massachusetts Justices of the Peace Association, do solemnly declare that I will faithfully and impartially perform the duties of the office of the President to which I have been elected. I will, to the best of my knowledge and ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations of the Massachusetts Justices of the Peace Association as they are now in force, and which may hereinafter be enacted and promulgated. So help me God.

I now declare you duly installed and in your full power as President of the Massachusetts Justices of the Peace Association. Congratulations!

Ritual for Installation of Officers

My fellow members, you have been elected to fill the various offices of the Massachusetts Justices of the Peace Association. You have been entrusted with the responsibility of guiding its course for the next two years. It is a sacred trust, and a grave responsibility. Guard well that trust! Remember that the success of the association lies in your hands. It is your duty to become familiar with the constitution, the bylaws, and the rules and regulations of the Massachusetts Justices of the Peace Association. Become fully acquainted with the duties of your office, for upon you rests the responsibility, by work and deed, to increase ~~an~~ interest in education of its members, and to promote those activities which will make the Massachusetts Justice of the Peace Association outstanding in our Commonwealth. Please raise your right hand and repeat the following oath after me:

I, (NAME), having been elected to the office of (OFFICE) of the Massachusetts Justice of the Peace Association, do solemnly swear that I will faithfully and impartially perform the duties of the office to which I have been elected. And I will do my best to preserve, protect, and defend the constitution, bylaws, rules and regulations of the Massachusetts Justice of the Peace Association as they are now in force, and which may hereafter be enacted and promulgated. So help me God.

I now declare you duly installed and qualified to take your respective offices. Congratulations.

Ritual for Installation of New Members

On behalf of the members of the Massachusetts Justices of the Peace Association, Inc., I am pleased to welcome you as a new member to our organization. We hope that you will find your membership valuable, instructive, helpful, and entertaining. We hope to see you at many more of the general meetings in the future. We have a brief swearing-in ceremony to mark this occasion as one that is special for you, as well as for all of us.

Please raise your right hand and answer each question with "I do."

Do you accept the invitation to join the Massachusetts Justices of the Peace Association, Inc.?

I Do

Do you agree to uphold the values and the ideals of the Association, which are honesty, integrity, and service?

I Do

In keeping with the mission our organization, do you promise to support and assist Justices of the Peace in the performance of their duties to the best of your ability?

I Do.

Then it is my pleasure to welcome you to the Massachusetts Justice of the Peace Association and I hope that you find your membership is as rewarding to you as it has been for me and for all of us.

Congratulations!

his application packet has 5 pages in total and includes general information and instructions for completing the scholarship application and personal essay. When applying, be sure to read all the instructions thoroughly and complete the entire application.