



**Bylaws  
of the**

**Gourdin-Gourdine  
Family Association**

**Originally Ratified  
January 1, 1998**

**1st Revision  
June 1, 2009**

# **BYLAWS OF THE GOURDIN-GOURDINE FAMILY ASSOCIATION**

## **ARTICLE I - NAME**

The name of this organization shall be the *Gourdin-Gourdine Family Association* (hereinafter referred to as "the Association"). In these bylaws, all mention of Gourdin-Gourdine shall mean Gourdins, Gourdines (including all variant spellings of the surnames of Gourdin or Gourdine) and extended families.

## **ARTICLE II - OBJECTIVES**

- A. To promote family unity and continuing fellowship of all Gourdin-Gourdine families through family reunions and related activities.
- B. To create a supportive atmosphere for members who strive for excellence through educational achievements and economic advancements.
- C. To publish and distribute periodic newsletters or other material of interest to Gourdin-Gourdine families.
- D. To foster continuing research and to publish research results documenting the history and genealogy of Gourdin-Gourdine families, from early origins abroad; through immigration or importation to America; to present generations.

## **ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP**

Membership in the Association is open to all persons (and spouses) descended from a Gourdin-Gourdine family, including all variant spellings of the surnames of Gourdin or Gourdine. Membership is obtained by submitting a completed membership application and appropriate dues to the Association.

## **ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS**

- A. **Officers** - of the Association shall be the President; Vice-President; Administrative Secretary; Correspondence Secretary; and, Treasurer. Officers must be a member of the Association and are elected by the Association members.
- B. **Duties** - of the Association Officers are as follow:
  - 1) **President** - shall uphold the objectives of the Association; preside at all meetings of the Association; serve as chairperson of the Executive Committee; issue a call to all meetings of the Association; represent the Association at functions germane to the advancement of the Association; and perform other functions and duties as may pertain to the office of the President.
  - 2) **Vice President** - shall assist in upholding the objectives of the Association; serve as acting President in the President's temporary absence, and as interim President in the President's permanent absence; serve as parliamentarian; and perform such other duties as may pertain to the office of the Vice President.
  - 3) **Administrative Secretary** - shall keep records of the proceedings of all Association business meetings, maintain the official mailing list of the Gourdin-Gourdine Family

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and perform such other duties as may pertain to the Administrative Secretary.

- 4) **Correspondence Secretary** - shall be responsible for preparing and distributing thank you notes, sympathy cards, special recognition, and perform such other duties as may pertain to the Correspondence Secretary.
- 5) **Treasurer** - shall collect and document all membership dues; record all financial expenditures; receive documented permission from the President prior to expenditure of fund; perform such other duties as may pertain to the office of the Treasurer, including providing periodic financial reports to Association members and a summary financial report to the Executive Committee at the end of the Treasurer's term.

**ARTICLE V - ELECTIONS**

Election of Officers and Standing Committee Chairpersons shall be held bi-annually at the business meeting of the Association, during the family reunion. Any vacancies during the interim, between business meetings, shall be filled by appointment of the President (or interim President), and confirmed by a simple majority of the Association Officers.

- A. Services provided by officers, members of committees, appointees or any other duties or acts conducted for or on behalf of the Association shall be gratuitous.
- B. Candidates shall:
  - 1) be a confirmed descendant of a Gourdin, Gourdine or a derivative spelling of Gourdin or Gourdine;
  - 2) be a member of the Association; and,
  - 3) have attained twenty-one (21) years of age or older.
- C. **Term of Office** - shall be a 2 years period, beginning on the first day of September following the date of election and extend to the last day of August following the subsequent Family Reunion (i.e., September 1, 2009 - August 31, 2011).
- D. **Transition Period** – for elected officials shall be the period extending from the date of election to the last day of August of the election year (i.e., July 24, 2009 – August 31, 2009).
- E. **Term Limitation** - shall be a maximum of two (2) consecutive Terms of Office for all Association Officers (President, Vice-President, Administrative Secretary, Correspondence Secretary, and Treasurer). Appointments and Chairpersons of the Education and the Membership Committees are not confined by these limitations.

**ARTICLE VI – STANDING COMMITTEES**

Standing Committees are those committees that shall be continuously maintained within the Association. Standing Committees consist of the Executive Committee, Education Committee, Membership Committee, and Reunion Committee.

- A. **Executive Committee** – shall consist of Association officers; Chairpersons of Standing

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Committees; and, the Immediate Past President. The Executive Committee shall administer the business affairs of the Association. It shall have power in the interval between general meetings of the Association to act on all administrative matters on behalf of the Association.

- B. **Education Committee** – shall be responsible for providing information and assistance to Association members who strive for excellence through educational achievements.
  - 1) Specific details and activities of the Education Committee will be addressed in documents prepared by the committee chairperson, and will be implemented with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee.
- C. **Membership Committee** – shall be responsible for developing and administering a membership plan. The plan shall address detailed membership types and benefits, and will be implemented with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee.
  - 1) The chairperson of the Membership Committee, in conjunction with the Association Treasurer, shall be responsible for retaining membership applications and shall maintain an accurate and timely account of members in good financial standing.
- D. **Reunion Committee** – shall be organized during each Bi-annual meeting at the family reunion and exist for a period of two years - not to exceed the time of the succeeding family reunion. The Reunion Committee shall consist of a Chairperson; Vice Chairperson; Secretary; Treasurer, and such other members as may be determined by the Committee Chairperson, with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee.
  - 1) The Reunion Committee shall be responsible for planning, coordinating and administering the bi-annual family reunion. Details of specific activities of this committee will be addressed in documents prepared by the Reunion Committee - under the supervision and approval of the Executive Committee. All financial affairs of this committee shall be administered by the Reunion Committee Treasurer, under the management of the Reunion Committee Chairperson.
  - 2) All residual funds remaining in the Reunion Committee treasury after all obligations have been satisfied shall be transferred to the Association treasury.

**ARTICLE VII – AD HOC COMMITTEES**

The President shall form ad hoc committees and assign committee Chairpersons as required for the proper operation of the Association. These assignments must be confirmed by a simple majority of the Executive Committee, and shall include, but shall not be limited to the following committees:

- A. **Election Committee** – shall be responsible for assembling a panel of candidates and conducting the election and installation of new officers and Standing Committee Chairs. The committee shall consist of a Chairperson and such other members as may be determined by the Executive Committee.
- B. **Bylaws Committee** – shall be responsible for establishing, chartering and implementing

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the structure by which the Association shall function. The committee shall consist of a Chairperson and such other members as may be determined by the Executive Committee.

**ARTICLE VIII – APPOINTMENTS**

The President shall appoint other positions as required for the proper operation of the Association. These appointments must be confirmed by a simple majority of the Executive Committee, and shall include, but shall not be limited to the following appointments:

- A. **Genealogist** – shall research, document, and present the genealogy of Gourdin-Gourdine families from early origins abroad; through immigration or importation to America; to present generations; and shall develop Gourdin-Gourdine family branches.
- B. **Historians** – shall represent each branch of the Gourdin-Gourdine families within the Association and, be responsible for collecting and compiling family history and family lore for their respective branch of the Gourdin-Gourdine Family.
- C. **Newsletter Editor** – shall edit and publish the Association's newsletter - *The Gourdin-Gourdine Quarterly*, and other material of interest to Gourdin-Gourdine families - as directed by the President. Funds for incidental expenses associated with the publication (i.e., mailings expenses, office supplies, P.O. Box, etc.) shall be provided by the Association, or as determined by the Executive Committee.

**ARTICLE IX - FINANCE**

The finances of the Association shall be accounted for under a budget system.

- A. No officer, committee, committee member or general member of the Association shall receive any funds or incur any expense on behalf of the Association not provided for in these Bylaws without documented authorization and approval by the President; nor shall the Treasurer make any payment except for expenditures which have been so approved.
- B. There shall be an annual audit of all accounts by an independent accounting firm; however, whenever practical, the annual audit may be conducted by an internal accounting team as may be determined by a simple majority of the Executive Committee.

**ARTICLE X - FAMILY REUNION**

A reunion of the Gourdin-Gourdine families will be held during *the last weekend of July or the first weekend in August* in all odd years (i.e., 2009, 2011, etc.). Each third family reunion shall be held at a location within the state of South Carolina.

**ARTICLE XI - BUSINESS MEETINGS**

A business meeting shall be held on Friday or Saturday, or such other time as may be determined by the Executive Committee, on the site of and during the bi-annual family reunions. These family business meetings are open to all persons (and spouses) descended from a Gourdin-Gourdine families. However, only members of the Association in good financial standing are eligible to cast votes. All other meetings (committee meetings, social events, etc.) do not consti-

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tute business meetings. Final decisions on issues brought to the business meeting shall be passed by a simple majority of a quorum of Association members present at the business meeting.

- A. **Majority** – *Simple* majority shall mean a number greater than fifty percent (50%) of those members casting votes, while *Grand* majority shall mean a number greater than two-thirds (2/3) of members casting votes.
- B. **Quorum** – shall mean one-third (1/3) or more of members in good financial standing at the Association business meeting. A quorum of members in good financial standing is necessary in order to conduct official business of the Association. The chairperson of the Membership Committee shall be responsible for maintaining an accounting of eligible voting Association members.
- C. During the intervening years between family reunions (i.e., 2010, 2012, etc.), members of the Executive Committee and all other interested Association members shall meet at a specified location, agreed upon by the Executive Committee, for the purpose of discussing and resolving issues related to the administration, management and operation of the Association.
- D. Travel expenses associated with attending Association meetings will be borne by the attendees. Funds for incidental expenses associated with these meetings (i.e., mailings, phone calls, meeting facilities, etc.) shall be provided by the Association, or as determined by the Executive Committee.

**ARTICLE XII - RATIFICATION**

This *1st Revision* of the Gourdin-Gourdine Family Association Bylaws shall become effective on June 1, 2009, upon affirmative votes by a Grand Majority of a quorum, or greater, of Association members in good standing. Members in good financial standing mean members whose Association dues are paid-up and current.

**ARTICLE XIII - AMENDMENTS**

These bylaws may be amended by affirmative votes by a Grand Majority of a quorum, or greater, of Association members in good standing.

**ARTICLE XIV - DISCLAIMER**

The Association disclaims responsibility for the actions and personal opinions of individual members who are in violation of the intent and purpose of these Association's bylaws.

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We, the members of the **Bylaws Committee** of the **2007-2009 Gourdin-Gourdine Family Association**, do hereby subscribe to these fourteen articles, and in accordance with the wishes and desires of the full membership of the Association (identified in Article III of these Bylaws), and by our signatures, revise the original bylaws established by the **1997-1999 Gourdin-Gourdine Family National Committee**.

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Chairman:	John Raymond Gourdin	<u>John R. Gourdin</u>	<u>22 MAY 09</u>
Vice Chairman:	Timothy Gourdine	<u>Timothy Gourdine Jr.</u>	<u>29 May 2009</u>
Members:	Andre A. Battiste	<u>Andre A. Battiste A.</u>	<u>31 May 2009</u>
	Alphonso R. Brown	<u>Alphonso Brown</u>	<u>May 31, 2009</u>
	Donald Fraser	<u>Donald H. Fraser</u>	<u>24 May 2009</u>
	Donell E. Gourdine	<u>Donell E. Gourdine</u>	<u>28 May 09</u>
	Miriam Gourdine	<u>Miriam Gourdine</u>	<u>5/22/09</u>
	William Gourdine	<u>William Gourdine</u>	<u>5-26-09</u>
	Dedra L. Gourdine-Davis	<u>Dedra Gourdine Davis</u>	<u>5-25-09</u>
	Jacqueline Rose	<u>Jacqueline A. Rose</u>	<u>5/25/2009</u>
	William D. Tatum	<u>William D. Tatum</u>	<u>May 31, 2009</u>

**Current Membership  
of the  
Gourdin-Gourdine Family Association**

(as of May 31, 2009)

Reggae Anwisye  
Jerry & Rosalind Banks  
Florence Barnett  
Andre A. Battiste  
Helena Bouy  
Alphonso Brown  
Linda Burrell & Family  
Dionne Edmond & Family  
Sarah Franklin & Family  
Donald Fraser & Family  
Anita Furbert  
Robert & Helene (Shine) Goety  
John & Gloria Gourdin  
John L. Gourdin  
Michael A. Gourdin  
Donell E. Gourdin & Family  
Emily J. Gourdin & Family  
Gloria Gourdin  
Janie & Issac Gourdin, II  
Janine & Sherrie Gourdin  
Leonard & Ella May Gourdin  
Lyric & Mary Gourdin  
Mary B. Gourdin  
Miriam Gourdin  
Timothy & Virginia Gourdin  
William & Hilda Gourdin  
Barbara Gourdin-Clark  
Dedra Gourdin-Davis & Family  
Joseph & Rose Mary (Gourdine) Davis

James & Rosa Gourdin-Franklin  
Linda Gourdin-Hunt & Family  
Doris Gourdin-Jameson  
Pamela Gourdin-Scott  
Natachia Gourdin-Tyson  
Carl & Elisabeth Greene  
Dorothy Jenkins  
Jacob & Rhonda (Gourdine) Johnson  
James & Rachel Johnson  
Lavon & Patricia (Gourdine) Matthews  
Gardenia V. Mccray  
Itanya Milligan-Artis  
Edna E Monroe  
Jonathan & Renee Moyd  
Namion & Marjorie Moyd  
Kim & Paul Norris  
Carl Peters  
Rachel L. Philson  
Earl & Marie Richardson  
Jacqueline Rose  
Larry & Yvonne Rose  
Charles & Thelma Shine  
Singletary Family  
Alonzo Toomer  
Barbara Walker  
Francina Wiggs  
Mary Williams  
Vermell Wilson

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