

# RUFUS BIGGS

## FAMILY REUNION

### BY-LAWS

#### HISTORY OF THE RUFUS BIGGS SR. FAMILY REUNION

The Biggs/McClain Family Reunion was established in 1980 in Delano, CA by Rufus "Man" Biggs Jr., with its inaugural gathering held at Lake Woollomes. Originally encompassing all descendants of William Cornelius Biggs & Rosetta McClain's 19 children, the reunion served as the mass body for the extended family. As the reunion grew, formal by-laws were adopted creating nineteen distinct clans, each representing one of William Cornelius Biggs & Rosetta McClain's children. Rufus Biggs Sr., the youngest of these children, became the namesake of our branch. Rufus Biggs Sr.'s descendants established the Rufus Biggs Sr. Family Reunion, uniting members from Northern California, Southern California, Montana, and Oklahoma while maintaining our connection to the larger Biggs/McClain Family Reunion.

While we remain one of the nineteen official clans within the Biggs/McClain Family Reunion mass body, our branch maintains its distinct identity and traditions. We continue to participate in both our clan-specific reunions and the broader family gatherings.

#### ARTICLE I – NAME, PURPOSE, AND TIMING

**Article 1.1: Name:** The name of this family organization shall be Rufus Biggs, Sr. Family Reunion.

**Article 1.2: Purpose:** The Rufus Biggs Family Reunion exists to unite, support, and educate the descendants of Rufus Biggs Sr. through organized gatherings, shared resources, and programs that strengthen family bonds and preserve our legacy.

**Article 1.3: Time:** The Rufus Biggs, Sr. Family Reunion shall take place on the weekend closest to August 15th of each year. This is in recognition of the birthday of Rufus Biggs, Sr. The reunion shall be held on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday with Saturday being the main day. The official end is with Sunday morning Church service.

#### ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP

**Article 2.1: Annual Dues:**

**A. Structure:**

1. **Households:** \$80.00

a. *Definition:* (1) Parents and their minor children OR (2) Two adults living together (e.g., a couple)

2. **Single Adults:** \$40.00

a. *Definition:* (1) One adult, 21 years of age or older

3. **Exemptions:** Generation 3. Starting from Ma & Pa (Generation 1)

**B. Due Date:**

1. **Payment Deadline:** All dues must be paid in full by June 1st annually.

2. **Non-Payment Status:** Members with unpaid dues by the deadline:

a. May miss being included in official attendance counts.

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- C. **Fund Allocation:** All collected dues and contributions will be allocated to reunion activities.
1. **Souvenirs:** An allotment of \$200.
  2. **Secretarial Expenses:** All secretarial expenses must be reasonable, directly related to reunion planning or communication, and submitted with receipts or documentation for approval by the Reunion Committee or Treasurer as incurred.
    - a. **Printing and Copying:** Costs for printing flyers, sign-in sheets, or other reunion-related materials.
    - b. **Communication Tools:** Expenses related to contacting family members via text message or email.
    - c. **Digital services:** Subscriptions or fees for software used to create, store, or share reunion documents (e.g., website).
- D. **Website:** An allotment of \$150 will be given for the maintenance of the family website – [www.rufusbiggsfamily.com](http://www.rufusbiggsfamily.com).
- E. **High School Graduates:** \*Pass the Hat\* to collect monies for High School Graduates to be split between all graduates.
- F. **Fundraisers:** Fundraisers may be used to raise money to offset expenses

**Article 2.2: Rights of Membership:** Each member may cast one vote, provided they: (A) Possess the mental capacity to understand the voting process, and (B) Can comprehend the consequences of their vote.

## ARTICLE III – MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

### Article 3.1: Annual Meeting:

- A. **Policy:** The Annual General Meeting shall be held each year on Main Day, prior to the scheduled meal. The reunion host shall determine and communicate the specific time and venue for the AGM. All attending members shall be eligible to participate in the proceedings.
- B. **Agenda:** During the annual meeting, members shall: (1) elect officers, (2) select host, (3) review reports, (4) establish plans for the subsequent reunion, (5) collect dues, and (6) consider the amount of future dues.
- C. **Host Selection:** The reunion host for the following year shall be selected at each Annual General Meeting (AGM). To submit a bid to host the reunion in a particular city and state, the member must be physically present at the AGM. The hosting bid shall be approved by a majority vote of members present at the AGM.
- D. **By-Laws Amendment:** Any proposed changes to these By-Laws may only be adopted by a vote at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- E. **Voting:** All matters put to vote shall be decided by a simple majority of members present and voting, unless otherwise specified in these by-laws. Voting can be conducted by: (1) show of hands, (2) voice, (3) roll call – upon request, or (4) secret ballot – when required by these by-laws.

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- F. **Tie Provisions:** In case of tie, the motion fails unless the President exercises their tie-breaking privilege (where applicable).
- G. **Challenge Process:** Any member may challenge the voting procedure before the result is declared. The President shall resolve such challenges subject to appeal to the membership.

#### **Article 3.2: Officer's Meeting:**

- A. **Policy:** Regular meetings of the officers shall be held periodically throughout the year. The time, date, and location of meetings shall be determined by a majority vote of the officers.
- B. **Attendance:** All officers are required to attend every scheduled officer's meeting. Any officer unable to attend must notify the President as soon as practicable prior to the meeting, stating the reason for absence.
- C. **Agenda:** The agenda shall be determined by the officer calling the meeting.

#### **Article 3.3: Committee Meetings:**

- A. **Formation:** The Executive Board may establish standing or ad hoc committees as necessary to plan and execute reunion activities.
- B. **Structure:** Each committee shall have a designated chairperson appointed by the Host. Committee members may be appointed by the Host or volunteer from the general membership.
- C. **Members:** Must be local or able to travel regularly to assist with preparations.

## ARTICLE IV – FAMILY REUNION OFFICERS

**Article 4.1: Family Reunion Officers:** The officers shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Sargent at Arms.

**Article 4.2: President:** A new President is elected each year at the annual general meeting. The President then selects their cabinet for approval by the mass body. Our President has the authority to make necessary decisions in-between Annual General Meeting (AGM).

**Article 4.3: Vice President:** A new Vice President is elected each year at the general meeting. The Vice President's responsibility is to assist the president in managing the organization's operations and achieving its goals.

**Article 4.5: Treasurer:** The Treasurer shall manage the financial resources, including the cash flow and debt, to ensure the organization can meet its financial obligations and achieve reunion goals. The Treasurer will also provide reports at meetings as needed/requested.

**Article 4.6: Secretary:** The Secretary shall document in the minutes: (A) The exact wording of each motion, (B) The vote tally for recorded votes, and (C) Whether the motion carried or failed.

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**Article 4.7: Advisory Board:** The Advisory Board provides guidance to the current Family Reunion Officers. Board members shall be composed of prior officers.