Mission Statement: The formation of any chapter of AGS will have, like the parent organization, the core mission of working to expand public awareness and support for the research, preservation and conservation of grave markers and places of burial. The main purpose of chapters will be to work as local extensions of the national AGS by recruiting new members and offering meeting and workshop opportunities at the local level. Chapters will operate, not as independent organizational entities, but as local bases to expand interest and membership in the AGS.

Rules: All chapters will be bound to adhere to the following rules.

1. Chapter leaders must be current members of the AGS in good standing. This means individuals who have been members of AGS for at least two years and who have attended at least one annual meeting in the last ten years. The role of the co-chairs is to help with the organization of meetings and serve as point persons for the public and through which information about a given chapter is relayed to the AGS office staff, and thence to the current Chair of the Chapters Committee on the Board of Trustees.

2. In addition to the chapter co-chairs, a chapter secretary should be established at the initial chapter meeting to keep a record of information to be provided in required reporting to the AGS office staff and Chapters Chair or designee. There shall be no traditional organizational hierarchy (President, VP, Treasurer) at the chapter level. Any handling of chapter money for events will be the responsibility of the chapter co-chairs or meeting organizer (if different).

3. Funding for chapter meetings will be left in the hands of the chapter co-chairs and/or meeting organizer(s). Once the costs for any given meeting have been covered, any money that may be left over should then be passed on to the organizer (if different) of the next meeting to be applied to that next meeting’s costs of operation. Should a chapter choose to cease, all extra monetary assets will be sent to the AGS head office.

4. All chapters should send reports on the chapter’s co-leaders, status, meetings, project progress, AGS membership recruitment, and funds to the AGS office staff at least twice a year by October 1st and April 1st. Such reports will then be furnished to the Chair of the Chapters Committee for presentation to the Board of Trustees. These semi-annual reports are required to remain in good standing.

5. Chapters may choose the frequency of their meetings at their discretion, but no chapter meeting shall conflict with the national conference, usually in June of each year. Each chapter will hold at least one meeting each year. If the chapter meeting will include any hands-on preservation activities, these must be pre-approved by the AGS Preservation Committee.

6. The object of the chapters is to advance recognition of and membership in the AGS, not to become competing organizations. Chapter supporters may be affiliated with the chapter but must be members of AGS.
7. Chapters shall not public newsletters or publish peer-reviewed journals without permission and or approval from the AGS Board of Trustees.

8. Chapters may choose to design their own chapter logo, but such logo should appear in tandem with the official AGS logo on all websites, publications, and press announcements. The logos should be of equal size and placement. All websites and social media accounts must include links to AGS.

9. Chapters who do not complete the required reporting, do not hold at least one meeting per year, or who violate the above rules and/or spirit of AGS are subject to review by the Chapters Committee. The Chapters Committee may recommend the chapter be placed on inactive status or recommend the AGS Board of Trustees dissolve the chapter.