

Bylaws of the Rotary Club of Vestal

Article 1 Definitions

1. Board: The Board of Directors of this club.
2. Director: A member of this club's Board of Directors.
3. Member: A member, other than an honorary member, of this club.
4. RI: Rotary International.
5. Year: The twelve-month period that begins on 1 July.

Article 2 Board

The governing body of this club shall be the board consisting of members of this club, namely, the president, immediate past president, president-elect (1st vice-president), 2nd vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and the sergeant-at-arms. At the discretion of the board, also added can be up to 2 additional at large directors elected in accordance with article 3, section 1, or appointed in accordance with article 3, section 4 of these bylaws.

Article 3 Election of Directors and Officers

Section 1 – No later than November 1st the presiding officer shall ask for nominations by members of the club for president (it is the practice of the club for the current 1st vice-president to be nominated as president), 1st vice-president (it is the practice of the club for the current 2nd vice-president to be nominated as 1st vice-president), 2nd vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and at large directors. The nominations may be presented by a nominating committee or by members from the floor. If it is determined to use a nominating committee, such committee shall be appointed as the club may determine. The nominations duly made shall be placed on a ballot in alphabetical order under each office and shall be voted for at the annual meeting, no later than December 31. The candidates for president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer receiving a majority of the votes shall be declared elected to their respective offices. The candidates for director receiving a majority of the votes shall be declared elected as at large directors. The candidate for president elected in such balloting shall be the president-nominee.

Section 2 – The officers and directors shall constitute the board. The directors-elect shall meet and elect some member of the club to act as sergeant-at-arms.

Section 3 – A vacancy in the board or any office shall be filled by action of the remaining directors.

Section 4 – A vacancy in the position of any officer-elect or director-elect shall be filled by action of the remaining directors-elect.

Article 4 Duties of Officers

Section 1 – *President*: It shall be the duty of the president to preside at meetings of the club and the board and to perform other duties as ordinarily pertains to the office of president.

Section 2 – *Immediate Past President*: It shall be the duty of the immediate past president to

serve as a director and to perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the president or the board.

Section 3 – First Vice-President: It shall be the duty of the 1st vice-president to preside at meetings of the club and the board in the absence of the president and to perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the president or the board.

Section 4 – Second Vice-President: It shall be the duty of the 2nd vice-president to serve as a director and perform other duties as ordinarily pertains to the office of vice-president.

Section 5 – Secretary: It shall be the duty of the secretary to keep membership records; record attendance at meetings; send out notices of club, board, and committee meetings; record and preserve the minutes of such meetings; report as required to RI, including the semiannual reports of membership on 1 January and 1 July of each year, which shall include per capita dues for all members and prorated dues for active members who have been elected to membership in the club since the start of the July or January semiannual reporting period; report changes in membership; provide the monthly attendance report, which shall be made to the district governor within 15 days of the last meeting of the month; collect and remit RI official magazine subscriptions; and perform other duties as usually pertain to the office of secretary.

Section 6 – Treasurer: It shall be the duty of the treasurer to have custody of all funds, accounting for it to the club annually and at any other time upon demand by the board, and to perform other duties as pertain to the office of treasurer. Upon retirement from office, the treasurer shall turn over to the incoming treasurer or to the president all funds, books of accounts, or any other club property.

Section 7 – Sergeant-at-Arms: The duties of the sergeant-at-arms shall be such as are usually prescribed for such office and other duties as may be prescribed by the president or the board.

Article 5 Meetings

Section 1 – Annual Meeting: An annual meeting of this club shall be held at the first club meeting in December in each year, at which time the election of officers and directors to serve for the ensuing year shall take place.

(Note: Article 6, section 2 of the Standard Rotary Club Constitution provides that “An annual meeting for the election of officers shall be held not later than December 31st.”)

Section 2 – The regular weekly meetings of this club shall be held on **Monday at 12:15 pm**. Due notice of any changes in or canceling of the regular meeting shall be given to all members of the club. All members excepting an honorary member (or member excused pursuant to the standard Rotary club constitution) in good standing in this club, on the day of the regular meeting, must be counted as present or absent, and attendance must be evidenced by the member's being present for at least fifty (50) percent of the time devoted to the regular meeting, either at this club or at any other Rotary club, or as otherwise provided in the standard Rotary club constitution, article 9, sections 1 and 2.

- (a) Any club member with an attendance rate of less than 50% for a period of 9 consecutive months shall be placed on probation and lose all voting rights until their attendance rate is greater than 50%.
- (b) Any club member with an attendance rate of less than 50% for a period of 12 consecutive months shall be expelled from the club.
- (c) **Club members experiencing hardship may petition the board for an exception to dismissal.** Such petition shall describe the reason(s) why their attendance is below 50% and

what the member plans to do to improve their attendance. All such petitions shall be present in writing to the secretary, who shall bring the matter before the board.

Section 3 – One-third of the membership shall constitute a quorum at the annual and regular meetings of this club.

Section 4 – Regular meetings of the board shall be held once each month. Special meetings of the board shall be called by the president, whenever deemed necessary, or upon the request of two (2) directors, due notice having been given.

Section 5 – A majority of the elected officers shall constitute a quorum of the board.

Article 6 Fees and Dues

Section 1 – The admission fee shall be prorated quarterly dues to be paid before the applicant can qualify as a member, except as provided for in the standard Rotary club constitution, article 11.

Section 2 – The membership dues shall be established by the board in July each year, payable quarterly in July, September, January and April, with the understanding that a portion of each payment shall be applied to each member's subscription to the RI official magazine.

- (a) Dues are expected to be paid no later than the end of the month when club members are invoiced. Any member with an outstanding obligation of more than 3 months (1 quarter) shall automatically be placed on probation. While on probation club members lose all voting rights. Any member with an outstanding obligation of more than 6 months (2 quarters) automatically shall be dismissed from the club. .
- (b) **Club members experiencing hardship may petition the board for an exception to dismissal.** Such petition shall include a proposal indicating a timeframe and payment schedule that will allow the member to become current with any dues obligation. All such petitions shall be present in writing to the secretary, who shall bring the matter before the board.

Article 7 Method of Voting

The business of this club shall be transacted by *viva voce** vote except the election of officers and directors, which shall be by ballot. The board may determine that a specific resolution be considered by ballot rather than by *viva voce* vote. (*Note: Viva voce vote is defined as when club voting is conducted by vocal assent.*)

Article 8 Avenues of Service

The Avenues of Service are the philosophical and practical framework for the work of this Rotary club. They are Club Service, Vocational Service, Community Service, International Service, and New Generations Service. This club will be active in each of the Avenues of Service.

Article 9 Committees

Club committees are charged with carrying out the annual and long-range strategic goals of the club. The president-elect, president, and immediate past president should work together to ensure continuity of leadership and succession planning. When feasible, committee members should be

appointed to the same committee for three years to ensure consistency. The president-elect is responsible for appointing committee members to fill vacancies, appointing committee chairs, and conducting planning meetings prior to the start of the year in office. It is recommended that the chair have previous experience as a member of the committee. Standing committees should be appointed as follows:

- Membership
This committee should develop and implement a comprehensive plan for the recruitment and retention of members.
- Public -Relations
This committee should develop and implement plans to provide the public with information about Rotary and to promote the club's service projects and activities.
- Administration
This committee should conduct activities associated with the effective operation of the club.
- Community Service
This committee should develop and implement educational, humanitarian, and vocational projects that address the needs of its community and communities in other countries.
- The Rotary Foundation
This committee should develop and implement plans to support The Rotary Foundation through both financial contributions and program participation.
- Additional ad hoc committees may be created as needed.

(a) The president shall be *ex officio* a member of all committees and, as such, shall have all the privileges of membership thereon.

(b) Each committee shall transact its business as is delegated to it in these bylaws and such additional business as may be referred to it by the president or the board. Except where special authority is given by the board, such committees shall not take action until a report has been made and approved by the board.

(c) Each chair shall be responsible for regular meetings and activities of the committee, shall supervise and coordinate the work of the committee, and shall report to the board on all committee activities.

(Note: Clubs have the discretion to create any committees that are required to effectively meet its service and fellowship needs. A club may develop a different committee structure as needed.)

Article 10 Duties of Committees

The duties of all committees shall be established and reviewed by the president for his or her year. In declaring the duties of each, the president shall reference appropriate RI materials and the Avenues of Service when developing plans for the year.

Article 11 Leave of Absence

Upon written application to the board, setting forth good and sufficient cause, leave of absence may be granted excusing a member from attending the meetings of the club for no longer than twelve (12) months.

(Note: Such leave of absence does operate to prevent a forfeiture of membership; it does not operate to give the club credit for the member's attendance. Unless the member attends a

regular meeting of some other club, the excused member must be recorded as absent except that absence authorized under the provisions of the Standard Rotary Club Constitution is not computed in the attendance record of the club.)

Article 12 Finances

Section 1 – At the beginning of each fiscal year, the board shall prepare a budget of estimated income and expenditures for the year, which shall stand as the limit of expenditures for these purposes, unless otherwise ordered by action of the board. The proposed budget shall be presented to the club membership.

Section 2 – The treasurer shall deposit all club funds in a bank, named by the board.

Section 3 – All bills shall be paid by the treasurer or other authorized officer, consistent with the adopted budget or resolutions passed by the board.

Section 4 – A thorough review of all financial transactions by a qualified person shall be made once each year.

Section 5 – Officers having charge or control of club funds shall give bond as required by the board for the safe custody of the funds of the club, cost of bond to be borne by the club.

Section 6 – The fiscal year of this club shall extend from 1 July to 30 June, and for the collection of members' dues shall be divided into **four (4) quarterly** periods extending from 1 July to August, from September to December, January to March and from April 1 June. The payment of per capita dues and RI official magazine subscriptions shall be made in July, September, January and April of each year on the basis of the membership of the club on those dates.

Article 13 Method of Electing Members

Section 1 – The name of a prospective member, proposed by an active member of the club, shall be submitted to the board in writing, through the club secretary. A transferring or former member of another club may be proposed to active membership by the former club. The proposal shall be kept confidential except as otherwise provided in this procedure.

Section 2 – The board shall ensure that the proposal meets all the classification and membership requirements of the standard Rotary club constitution.

Section 3 – The board shall approve or disapprove the proposal within 30 days of its submission and shall notify the proposer, through the club secretary, of its decision.

Section 4 – If the decision of the board is favorable, the prospective member shall be informed of the purposes of Rotary and of the privileges and responsibilities of membership, following which the prospective member shall be requested to sign the membership proposal form and to permit his or her name and proposed classification to be published to the club.

Section 5 – If no written objection to the proposal, stating reasons, is received by the board from any member (other than honorary) of the club within seven (7) days following publication of information about the prospective member, that person, upon payment of the admission fee (if not honorary membership), as prescribed in these bylaws, shall be considered to be elected to membership. If any such objection has been filed with the board, it shall vote on this matter at its next meeting. If approved despite the objection, the proposed member, upon payment of the admission fee (if not honorary membership), shall be considered to be elected to membership.

Section 6 – Following the election, the president shall arrange for the new member's induction, membership card, and new member Rotary literature. In addition, the president or secretary will report the new member information to RI and the president will assign a member to assist with the new member's assimilation to the club as well as assign the new member to a club

project or function.

Section 7 – The club may elect, in accordance with the standard Rotary club constitution, honorary members proposed by the board.

Article 14 Resolutions

The club shall not consider any resolution or motion to commit the club on any matter until the board has considered it. Such resolutions or motions, if offered at a club meeting, shall be referred to the board without discussion. All requests for funds from community organizations should be directed to the community service chair, prior to being brought to the board for consideration.

Article 15 Order of Business

- Meeting called to order.
- Introduction of visitors.
- Correspondence, announcements, and Rotary information.
- Committee reports if any.
- Any unfinished business.
- Any new business.
- Address or other program features.
- Adjournment.

Article 16 Amendments

These bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting, a quorum being present, by a two-thirds vote of all members present, provided that notice of such proposed amendment shall have been sent to each member at least ten (10) days before such meeting. No amendment or addition to these bylaws can be made which is not in harmony with the standard Rotary club constitution and with the constitution and bylaws of RI.

Adopted: Approved unanimously at the 9/9/13 meeting of the Vestal Rotary Club.

Amendments:

- July 20, 2015