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Recommended Rotary Club Bylaws

Bylaws of the Rotary Club of _____

Club bylaws supplement the Standard Rotary Club Constitution with common club practices. The bylaws in this document are recommendations, but once adopted are binding for the members of the club. Customize them to reflect your club's practices, and confirm that they are not in conflict with the RI Constitution and Bylaws, the Standard Rotary Club Constitution (except where permitted), and the Rotary Code of Policies. Articles that your club is required to include are noted below.

Article 1 Definitions

1. Board: The board of directors of this club.
2. Director: A director on this club's board.
3. Member: A member, other than an honorary member, of this club.
4. Quorum: The minimum number of participants who must be present when a vote is taken: one-third of the club's members for club decisions and a majority of the directors for club board decisions.
5. RI: Rotary International.
6. Year: The 12-month period beginning 1 July.

Your club may choose how it defines a quorum for voting purposes.

Article 2 Board

The governing body of this club is its board of directors, consisting of, at a minimum, the president, immediate past president, president-elect, secretary, and treasurer.

The Standard Rotary Club Constitution requires a club's bylaws to include article 2. The officers listed above are required to be members of the club board. Your club's board may have additional members, such as the vice president, the president-nominee, sergeant-at-arms, or other directors. If your club has satellite clubs, list their club board members in this article, also.

Article 3 Elections and Terms of Office

Section 1 — One month before elections, members nominate candidates for president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and any open director positions. The nominations may be presented by a nominating committee, by members from the floor, or both.

(July 2019)

Section 2 — The candidate who receives a majority of the votes for each office is declared elected to that office.

Section 3 — If any officer or board member vacates their position, the remaining members of the board will appoint a replacement.

Section 4 — If any officer-elect or director-elect vacates a position, the remaining members of the board-elect will appoint a replacement.

Section 5 — The terms of office for each role are:

President — one year

Vice President — _____

Treasurer — _____

Secretary — _____

Sergeant-at-arms — _____

Director — _____

The Standard Rotary Club Constitution requires that your club's bylaws specify an election process. If a nominating committee is used, include details of how it is appointed. The term of office for a club president is specified as one year in the Standard Rotary Club Constitution. When a successor is not elected, the current president's term can be extended for up to one year.

Article 4 Duties of the Officers

Section 1 — The president presides at club and board meetings.

Section 2 — The immediate past president serves as a director on the club board.

Section 3 — The president-elect prepares for his or her year in office and serves as a director.

Section 4 — The vice president presides at club and board meetings when the president is absent.

Section 5 — A director attends club and board meetings.

Section 6 — The secretary keeps membership and attendance records.

Section 7 — The treasurer oversees all funds and provides an accounting of them.

Section 8 — The sergeant-at-arms maintains order in club meetings.

See Rotary club leader manuals for details on the roles and responsibilities of club officers.

Article 5 Meetings

Section 1 – An annual meeting of this club is held no later than 31 December to elect the officers and directors who will serve for the next Rotary year.

Section 2 – This club meets as follows: _____. Reasonable notice of any change or cancellation of the regular meeting will be given to all club members.

Section 3 – Board meetings are held each month. Special meetings of the board are called with reasonable notice by the president or upon the request of two directors.

The Standard Rotary Club Constitution requires club bylaws to include article 5, section 2.

Article 6 Dues

Annual club dues are _____. They are paid as follows: _____. Annual club dues include RI per capita dues, subscriptions to an official magazine, district per capita dues, club fees, and any other Rotary or district per capita assessment.

The Standard Rotary Club Constitution requires club bylaws to include article 6.

Article 7 Method of Voting

The business of this club is conducted by voice vote or a show of hands except in the election of officers and directors, which is conducted by ballot. The board may also provide a ballot for a vote on some resolutions.

Include satellite club voting procedures here.

Article 8 Committees

Section 1 – This club's committees comprise those listed in article 11, section 7, of the Standard Rotary Club Constitution, as well as the following: _____.

Section 2 – The president is an ex officio member of all committees.

Section 3 – Each committee's chair is responsible for the regular meetings and activities of the committee, supervises and coordinates its work, and reports to the board on all committee activities.

Club committees coordinate their efforts to achieve the club's annual and long-term goals.

Article 9 Finances

Section 1 — Before each fiscal year starts, the board prepares an annual budget of estimated income and expenditures.

Section 2 — The treasurer deposits club funds in a financial institution or institutions designated by the board, divided into two accounts: one for club operations and one for service projects.

Section 3 — Bills are paid by the treasurer or another authorized officer and approved by two other officers or directors.

Section 4 — A qualified person conducts a thorough annual review of all financial transactions.

Section 5 — Club members will receive an annual financial statement of the club. A mid-year financial report, with current and previous year income and expenses, is presented at the annual meeting.

Section 6 — The fiscal year is from 1 July to 30 June.

Article 10 Method of Electing Members

Section 1 — A member proposes a candidate for membership to the board and/or the membership committee, or another club proposes one of its transferring or former members.

Section 2 — The board approves or rejects the candidate's membership within 30 days and notifies the proposing member of its decision.

Section 3 — If the board approves the candidate's membership, the prospective member is invited to join the club.

A process to address objections raised by current members may also be included here.

Article 11 Amendments

These bylaws may be amended at any regular club meeting. Changing the club bylaws requires sending written notice to each member 21 days before the meeting, having a quorum present for the vote, and having two-thirds of the votes support the change. Changes to these bylaws must be consistent with the Standard Rotary Club Constitution, the RI Constitution and Bylaws, and the Rotary Code of Policies.