# Bylavs

Rules that Fit the Needs of your Organization

## What are Bylaws?



- They are the basic rules that are adopted by an organization to govern itself
- The bylaws satisfy the particular needs of the organization that are governed by them

## **Purpose of Bylaws**

- Determine the rights and duties of membership
- Explain how the organization is structured and governed
- Take precedence over the rules in the parliamentary authority



## **Composition of Bylaws**

- Precision in word choice
- Sentence structure and punctuation are important
- What is omitted may carry as much significance as what is included
- Each sentence must be written so the complete meaning is clear, or
- Each sentence must compel referral to an adjoining section
- Temporary or transitional items are not included

## **Basic Bylaw Articles**



- Name
- Object
- Members
- Officers
- Meetings
- Executive Board
- **Committees**
- Parliamentary authority
- **Amendments**

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#### **Name**

- Full, exact, and properly punctuated
- If incorporated, the bylaws may omit this article
- If in both locations, the name as stated in the superior document is official



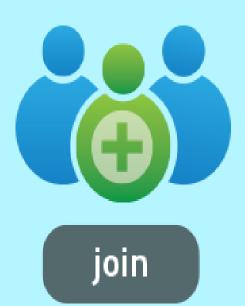
## **Object**



- Concisely expressed in a single sentence, phrases set off by semicolons or lettered subparagraphs, also set off by semicolons
- Should explain the purpose and goals of the organization (This is Key)!
- If incorporated, the bylaws may omit this article
- May be included instead in a preamble rather than in an article

## **Members**

- Classes of members
- Qualifications or eligibility for membership
- Required dues and fees, when payable, when delinquent, date dropped for nonpayment
- Resignations
- Honorary membership



## Officers

- Listed in order of rank
- Duties
- Method of nominating
- How elected
- Term of office and when term commences
- Term limitations
- Method of filling vacancies



## Meetings

- Day on which regular meetings are to be held
- Designation of annual meeting
- Special meetings—procedure for calling and notification requirements
- Quorum required for all meetings



#### **Executive Board**

- Composition
- Powers
- Regular meetings
- Special meetings
- Quorum



#### Committees

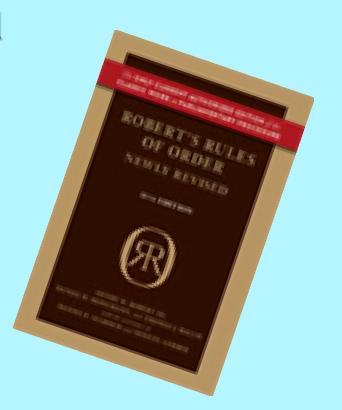
- Standing Committees
  - Composition
  - Manner of selection
  - Duties
- Special Committees
  - Manner of selection



- All standing committees named or a provision for establishment of additional standing committees
- Ex-officio Members are indicated, if any

## **Parliamentary Authority**

- Current edition of selected authority is named
- Society may adopt special rules of order as needed to supplement the parliamentary authority



## **Amendment**

- Procedure for amending the bylaws
- Required advance notice, manner, and time when amendment is in order
- Vote required for approval of amendment
- Amendment of proposed bylaws is limited to the scope of the notice

## **Notes on Amendments**

Affirmative vote cannot be reconsidered

Amendment takes immediate effect unless there is a proviso



## Presenting Proposed Amendments

Amend Article \_\_\_\_\_, Section \_\_\_\_\_, by (adding, striking out, striking out and inserting, or substituting)

**Current Text** 

**Proposed Text** 

**Rationale:** 

#### **The Finished Document!**

Only the assembly can amend captions or headings if the changes affect the meaning

Corrections of article or section numbers that cannot result in changes of meaning may be delegated

## QUESTION-COMMENTS

