

# **HOBBYISTS UNLIMITED**

Founded November, 1966

## **CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**

Approved and adopted September 5, 1968 and including all additions and revisions through March, 2023

### **ARTICLE I Name**

The name of this organization shall be "HOBBYISTS UNLIMITED".

### **ARTICLE II Purpose**

As an outreach program of the First Presbyterian Church of Ridgewood, NJ, the purpose of this organization is to cultivate and expand the hobbies of retired men by engaging in ethical, cultural, educational, and charitable activities as may be of interest to any segment of the membership. It shall be non-profit, non-political and non-sectarian.

### **ARTICLE III Sponsorship**

This organization is sponsored by the First Presbyterian Church, Ridgewood, New Jersey, as a community service.

### **ARTICLE IV Membership**

#### **Section 1.**

The membership shall be open to retired or semi-retired men who recognize a personal interest in the activities of the Hobbyists and have a desire to participate in them.

#### **Section 2.**

A candidate for membership shall submit to the Membership Committee/Chairman a completed application form signed by a sponsoring member. A sponsoring member may have only one prospective member under his sponsorship at a time. A new member may not sponsor a prospective member until he has held full membership for twelve months.

#### **Section 3.**

Completed applications of eligible candidates for membership shall be processed by the Membership Committee /Chairman in the chronological order of receipt. A limit of twelve applicants may be introduced at a regular meeting of the membership. If there are more than twelve applicants awaiting introduction in any month, the excess will be introduced in subsequent meetings in the chronological order that the applications were received. Applicants who are members of the sponsor organization shall be given precedence and will be introduced in the month following receipt of application. Regular applicants may be inducted during the 3<sup>rd</sup> business meeting that they have attended and will receive a membership card at that time.

**Section 4.**

Each candidate for membership, with the filing of his application, shall pay an application fee equal to the dues for one year. On making this payment he shall be entitled to participate in all Hobbyists activities, except voting at membership meetings, until he is officially inducted.

Application fees submitted before September 1 will be considered as dues for the current year. If submitted after September 1, the application fee will constitute dues for the current year and the following year.

**Section 5.**

Members who become deceased, who resign, or whose dues for the current year are not paid on or before the February meeting, shall be removed from the membership list.

**Section 6.**

When a member reaches 90 years of age, he shall be considered a Life Member and will not be required to pay any further dues.

**Section 7.**

A member in good standing who has resigned because of moving away from the area and who subsequently returns to the area, can reapply for membership. If he meets all membership criteria, his application will be given priority.

**Section 8.**

A member may be expelled from the organization for just cause to be determined by a 2/3 vote of the Executive Board.

**ARTICLE V Officers and their duties**

**Section 1.**

There shall be a President, a First Vice President, a Second Vice President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and a Sponsor Representative. This last officer shall be a member of the sponsor, and all officers shall be members in good standing of the organization. They shall be elected to serve for a term of one year and shall take office on the first Thursday of December.

**Section 2.**

The Executive Board shall consist of (1) the four most recent past presidents who are ready, willing, and able to participate and, (2) all the current officers. It shall meet at the pleasure of the President or on petition of three or more members of the organization to consider specific questions regarding the welfare of the organization. All other past presidents shall be members of the Senior Advisory Board, which may be called into session at any time by the Executive Board to counsel them on issues of importance to the organization.

**Section 3.**

Elections shall be held at the annual meeting, which shall be the first Thursday in November. Twenty-five percent of the membership shall constitute a quorum and a majority of the members present shall be sufficient to elect those nominated. In the event that a quorum is not present, voting may be conducted online for all items stated in the Constitution that require a vote of the general membership, *including the election of Officers.*

**Section 4.**

A vacancy in any office occurring between the annual meetings shall be filled by the Executive Board.

**Section 5.**

The Officers will perform their assigned duties and other duties as outlined in the Hobbyists Policies, Practices and Procedures.

**Section 6.**

An Officer may be removed from office for just cause to be determined by a 2/3 vote of the Senior Advisory Board and the Executive Board.

**Section 7.**

Signatories of financial accounts are limited to the President, First and Second Vice Presidents, the Treasurer, the Deputy Treasurer and the Secretary.

**ARTICLE VI Committees****Section 1.**

The Nominating Committee shall consist of five members appointed by the President prior to the September meeting. They shall select a slate of nominees to be presented to the membership at the October meeting for a membership vote at the November meeting.

**Section 2.**

Other committees may be appointed from time to time by the President for specific purposes.

**ARTICLE VII Meetings****Section 1.**

Normally, business meetings shall be held monthly on the First Thursday, except during July and August, at 10AM, on the premises of the First Presbyterian Church, Ridgewood, New Jersey. Activity groups assemble as needed one hour before the business meeting.

**Section 2.**

Twenty five percent of the total membership shall constitute a quorum at a business meeting. Matters coming before a business meeting shall be decided by a majority of the members present. In the event that a quorum is not present, voting may be conducted online for all items stated in the Constitution that require a vote of the general membership, including the election of Officers. The Executive Board shall notify the membership online, by email prior to the

specified General Meeting for discussion of the proposed item or slate of officers. The Executive Committee will have the option of presenting the item for voting by electronic means (online). Any member that does not have access to the email system may request a written ballot. The online voting period shall be open for a minimum 10 days

**Section 3.**

Meetings for the various activities shall be arranged as to time and place by the activities chairmen. Activities meeting on the premises of the sponsor must be cleared by the sponsor through the Second Vice President.

**ARTICLE VIII Activities**

Activities or hobbies shall be as diverse as necessary to fulfill the varied interests of the membership. Expenses in connection with an activity shall be the responsibility of those participating in the activity.

**ARTICLE IX Dues**

**Section 1.**

Dues shall be as determined by the Executive Board.

**Section 2.**

The fiscal year of this organization shall begin on December 1st, at which time annual dues are payable.

**ARTICLE X Gifts**

**Section 1.**

A memorial donation in an amount to be set from time to time by the Executive Board shall be made to any organization designated by the survivor of a deceased member.

**Section 2.**

Contributions as approved by the Executive Board shall be made to the sponsor in appreciation for the use of the premises.

**Section 3.**

Other gifts or donations may be made from time to time as determined by the Executive Board.

**ARTICLE XI Amendments**

The Constitution and By-Laws may be amended or revised at any regular meeting at which a quorum is present, by a two-thirds vote of the members present, provided such proposed amendments or revisions shall have been presented to the membership at one previous regular meeting.

## **ARTICLE XII    Dissolution**

Dissolution of Hobbyists Unlimited may be effected only if such a recommending resolution (by 2/3 vote of the Executive Board) is submitted in writing to the membership at a General Meeting and is approved by a 2/3 vote of the membership present and voting at the following General Meeting. In the event of dissolution of Hobbyists Unlimited, any monies remaining in the treasury, after payment of all debts, shall be contributed to the sponsor.