

HOBBYISTS UNLIMITED

Founded November, 1966

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Approved and adopted September 5, 1968 and including all additions and revisions through May 2025

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, which designates a Member Sponsor, or the Membership Committee as an alternate Sponsor. The candidate shall submit a head and shoulder photo for the roster. A sponsoring member may have only one prospective member under his sponsorship at a time (potentially four per year). A new Applicant / Member may encourage a prospective Applicant to submit an application to the Membership Committee, but cannot sponsor a member until he has full membership for twelve months.

Section 3.

Completed applications of eligible candidates for membership shall be processed by the Membership Committee /Chairman. Applicants may be inducted during the third business meeting that they have attended. A limit of twelve applicants may be inducted at a regular monthly meeting. An Applicant who is a member of the sponsor organization shall be given precedence and may be introduced in the month following receipt of the application.

Section 4.

Each candidate for membership 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 officially inducted. Application fees submitted before July 1 will be considered as dues for the current year. If submitted after July 1, the application fee will constitute dues for the current and following year.

Section 5.

Members who fail to pay dues on or before the February meeting, and members who have resigned or become deceased, shall be removed from the Roster /Membership list.

Section 6.

When a member reaches 90 years of age, in the current or upcoming year, he shall be considered a Life Member and will not be required to pay further dues.

Section 7.

A member in good standing who resigned or had been removed from the roster may be reinstated as a member if he meets all membership criteria and pays his dues for the current year.

Section 8.

A member may be expelled from the organization for just cause to be determined by a majority 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.