

# Constitution of the Raleigh Astronomy Club

*Revised: May 2024*

## **Article I Name and Territorial Limits**

Section 1. Name. The name of this organization shall be Raleigh Astronomy Club ("Club").

Section 2. Territorial Limits. The members shall reside, be employed, or attend school in the United States of America and its territories. Members who move away from the territorial limits may remain members by continuing to pay dues.

## **Article II Purposes**

The Raleigh Astronomy Club is an educational organization whose purposes are:

To promote amateur astronomy;

To increase and enhance the Raleigh Astronomy Club member's knowledge of astronomy and their skills to constructively pursue amateur astronomy;

To stimulate interest of the citizens of the city of Raleigh and surrounding communities in astronomy and related sciences;

To encourage members of the Raleigh Astronomy Club to serve the citizens of the city of Raleigh and surrounding communities by providing educational assistance on subjects related to astronomy.

## **Article III Membership**

Section 1. Types of Membership. There shall be only one type of membership.

Section 2. Membership. Subject to the limitations contained in this and other Articles of the Constitution and ByLaws, any person with an interest in astronomy or a related science is eligible for membership. Members shall be at least 13 years of age; members 15 years of age or younger must be accompanied by a chaperone at least 18 years old when attending Club events. The Raleigh Astronomy Club shall not discriminate with regard to age, sex, race, creed, national origin, or any other category protected by Federal or North Carolina discrimination laws.

Section 3. Membership Rights. A Membership shall be eligible to cast one vote in Club matters, receive Club benefits, and hold office in the Club (provided they meet the requirements for being an officer). An additional vote is granted to any one immediate family member of a paying member as long as that family member is eligible for membership in the Club. The additional vote may be allocated per vote and need not be assigned to a specific eligible family member. Additionally, all immediate family members shall also be eligible to receive Club benefits. Note, immediate family members are not eligible to hold office in the Club.

Section 4. Membership Responsibilities. The voting members shall support the accomplishment of the Club's objectives and abide by the Articles of the Constitution and ByLaws. Failure to pay financial obligations due the Club shall result in termination of membership, unless provided a waiver by the Executive Committee.

Section 5. Guests. Guests are invited to attend Club meetings, but shall not be entitled to hold office in the Club, vote on Club matters, nor receive Club benefits except as deemed proper by the Executive Committee. Note, a Club Member's immediate family receive membership benefits and are not considered Guests.

Section 6. Expulsion. The Executive Committee, by a majority vote, shall have the power to expel any

member or guest for disruptive conduct, or conduct damaging to the property or reputation of the Raleigh Astronomy Club or its members. Any expelled member will be notified in writing of the expulsion.

Section 7. Disposition of Dues and Fees. Any member who resigns or is expelled from the Club shall also forfeit any dues, fees or monies paid to the Club, subject to waiver by a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

#### ***Article IV Officers***

The officers of the Club shall comprise three CoChairs, one Secretary and one Treasurer. The Club offices shall be occupied by regular members in good standing who have been voting members for at least one year. In addition, all officers must be at least eighteen (18) years old and must be able to execute the duties of the office (as defined by the Executive Committee).

#### ***Article V Executive Committee***

Section 1. Composition. The three CoChairs, the Secretary, and the Treasurer shall constitute the Executive Committee of the Club. The Executive Committee will constitute the board of directors for the Club.

Section 2. Responsibilities. The Executive Committee shall be charged with making plans for the operation of the Club activities, shall devise plans to provide for the financial requirements of the Club, shall exercise general control over all officers and committees of the Club, and shall perform such other duties as ordinarily pertain to the governing body or as required by a majority vote of the voting membership, a quorum required. The Executive Committee shall have the power to overrule the decision of any Club officer or committee. All decisions of the Executive Committee shall be made by a majority vote of the Executive Committee members, except as specified by the Articles of the Constitution and ByLaws, and may be overruled by a majority vote of the voting-eligible Club members at a regular Club meeting, a quorum required.

#### ***Article VI Duties of Officers***

Section 1. CoChairs. The three CoChairs shall share the duty of presiding at all meetings of the Club and Executive Committee and the performance of such other duties as are necessary and incident to the proper administration of the Club, except such duties as are specifically delegated to others by the Articles of the Constitution and ByLaws.

Section 2. Secretary. The Secretary shall keep records of the regular meetings and meetings of the Executive Committee, maintain a complete and current copy of the Constitution and ByLaws and perform such other duties as ordinarily pertain to the office of Secretary or as specified by the Articles of the Constitution and ByLaws or as prescribed by the Executive Committee.

Section 3. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall receive and bank the funds of the Club, keep records of all financial transactions involving the funds of the Club or funds allocated to the Club for special projects, present a budget to Executive Committee in May for final ratification in June, maintain a list of all members, their contact information, and the status of their dues payments, complete and file all necessary federal and state documents, and perform such other duties as ordinarily pertain to the office of Treasurer or as specified by the Articles of the Constitution and ByLaws or as prescribed by the Executive Committee.

Section 4. Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall be charged with the responsibility of creating committees, assigning proper leadership, the supervision of all committees, and the dissolution of committees. A decision of any one Officer may be overruled by a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

#### ***Article VII Election of Officers***

Section 1. Nomination of Candidates. The Executive committee shall accept nominations and ensure that a slate of nominated candidates is presented to the voting-eligible Club members at one regular indoor

meeting prior to the election. Additional candidates may be nominated at any time up until the election.

Section 2. Time of Election. The new officers of the Club shall be elected during a regular indoor meeting in June or, if this is not practical, at the next regular indoor meeting.

Section 3. Term of Officers. Officers shall serve for a period of one year commencing July 1st.

Section 4. Vacancies in Office. If an office becomes vacant during the year, the voting-eligible Club members shall elect the successor by a majority vote, a quorum required, to serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.

Section 5. Limitations of Office Holding. No officer shall simultaneously hold more than one elected office.

Section 6. The Election Process. The new CoChairs will be the three candidates receiving the highest, second highest, and third highest number of votes. The winning candidates for Secretary and Treasurer will be those receiving the highest number of votes for that office. Each voting-eligible Club member may vote once for each office. A quorum is required for all elections.

Section 7. Removal of Officer. Voting-eligible Club members can remove an officer by a two-thirds vote, a quorum required. The removal will be effective as of the completion of the vote.

Section 8. Exception to Requirements. The Executive Committee may accept Officer nominations that do not meet all prerequisites and present the exception to members as a part of the Officer nomination process.

### ***Article VIII Club Fiscal Year***

The fiscal year of the Club shall begin annually on the first day of January and close on the last day of December.

### ***Article IX Club Disbandment***

In the event of disbandment of the Club, the assets of the Club will be donated to non-profit organizations as defined in the State of North Carolina, Department of the Secretary of State, Articles of Amendment of the Raleigh Astronomy Club, Attachment A, Third paragraph.

### ***Article X Amendments***

This constitution may be amended by the voting-eligible Club members at any regular meeting of the Club by a two thirds vote, a quorum required. The amendments must be submitted to the voting-eligible Club members one meeting in advance of the vote, and the Executive Committee shall notify voting-eligible Club members of the vote at least one meeting in advance of the vote.

