

FRIENDS OF THE ROCKWALL COUNTY LIBRARY BYLAWS

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this organization will be Friends of the Rockwall County Library, further referred to as Friends. Friends is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

Friends of the Rockwall County Library promotes the importance of the library to our community and enhances library programs and facilities through our service.

- We act as a voice and advocate for the Library to the community, the Rockwall County Commissioners Court, the Library Advisory Board and other governmental entities.
- We encourage and support life-long learning and literacy initiatives for people of all ages.
- We create additional resources for the Library, as a 501(c) (3) organization, by raising money, securing grants and increasing community support and awareness of the Library.
- We serve in a variety of volunteer opportunities at the Library and within Friends.
- We connect with each other in friendship and through the love of the Library and reading.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

- A. Any person or business interested in the promotion of the Rockwall County Library and who pays specified dues will be eligible for membership in this organization. The amount of annual dues will be determined by the Board, established by Resolution and listed in the Standing Rules.
- B. There will be various membership levels for individuals eighteen (18) years of age or older and for businesses who support the organization with annual dues.
- C. Names of all Friends will be listed in the yearbook unless otherwise requested.
- D. The membership year will be from January 1 through May 31.

ARTICLE IV - MEETINGS

- A. General Meetings will be held the second Tuesday in September, October, February, April and May. Business may be conducted at any General Meeting.
- B. Special Meetings may be called by the President or five members of the Board.
- C. Officers will be elected at the April meeting.
- D. The May Meeting will be the Annual Meeting at which new officers will be installed.
- E. Twenty members attending a properly called meeting will constitute a quorum.
- F. The Board and all committees are authorized to meet by electronic communication so long as all members are notified. The President will initiate such communications and notify members of the

outcome.

ARTICLE V - OFFICERS AND BOARD

- A. The elected officer of Friends are: President, President-Elect, First Vice-President for Programs, Second Vice-President for Fundraising and Special Events, Third Vice-President for Membership, Fourth Vice-President for Business Membership, Fifth Vice-President for Communication, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Parliamentarian is an appointed officer. All offices except President, President-Elect, Treasurer and Parliamentarian may be held by two persons, each having equal status. The term of office will be one year.
- B. The officers and the Past President will constitute the Board and will manage the business of the organization in the intervals between meetings. Insofar as possible, officers will attend all Friends meetings.
- C. The elected officer of Friends are: President, President-Elect, First Vice-President for Programs, Second Vice-President for Fundraising and Special Events, Third Vice-President for Membership, Fourth Vice-President for Business Membership, Fifth Vice-President for Communication, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Parliamentarian is an appointed officer. All offices except President, President-Elect, Treasurer and Parliamentarian may be held by two persons, each having equal status. The term of office will be one year.
- D. The Board will meet at least four times a year. The President or five members of the Board may call Special Board Meetings.
- E. A simple majority of members of the Board will constitute a quorum.
- F. Any member of the Board may be removed with or without cause by a two-thirds vote of the Board.

ARTICLE VI - ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- A. The Board will elect a five-member Nominating Committee at least three months prior to the April Meeting. This committee will be composed of three members from the general membership, a member of the Board, and the President-Elect who will be chair.
- B. The Nominating Committee will present the proposed slate of officers to the Board at least two months in advance of the April Meeting. All nominees must be members of Friends at the time of nomination. The Board may approve as submitted or may amend the proposed slate.
- C. The slate of officers approved by the Board will be published and circulated to the general membership at least three weeks in advance of the April Meeting. During the election, this slate of officers will be placed before the members and the meeting will be opened to nominations from the floor.
- D. Officers will be elected at the April Meeting, installed at the Annual Meeting in May, and will assume the responsibilities of office immediately upon the close of the Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE VII - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

- A. President
 - 1. The President will be Chair of the Board and preside at all meetings of Friends.

2. The President will be an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee and the Internal Financial Review Committee. The President or a Board member designated by the President will represent Friends at all meetings of the Rockwall County Library Advisory Board and will keep the Board informed of its actions.

3. The President will appoint all Standing Committees. In the event of a vacancy in any office other than the President-Elect, the President, with the approval of the Board, will appoint a replacement.

4. At the end of the year the President will prepare an annual report, which will be available to the members.

B. President-Elect

1. The President-Elect will be familiar with all details of the organization. In the temporary absence of the President, the President-Elect will preside and assume all authority and responsibility of the President. The President-Elect will serve as the chair of the Nominating Committee.

2. Upon resignation or removal of the President from that office, the President-Elect will become President and hold office the remainder of the term. If the President-Elect assumes the Presidency they will have the option of serving as President for the following year or having another President elected at the general meeting in April.

3. If a vacancy in the office of President-Elect occurs, the most recent Nominating Committee will be convened. As the President-Elect chairs the Nominating Committee and that office is currently vacant, the President will appoint one of the remaining four members to chair the committee and appoint one additional member from the Board to complete the five-member Nominating Committee. The committee will submit a nominee for President-Elect to be approved by the Board and elected at the next General Meeting.

C. First Vice-President for Programs: In charge of scheduling and presenting programs and making arrangements for locations and food for all meetings.

D. Second Vice-President for Fundraising and Special Events: Responsible for all fundraising and special events and will present the necessary fundraising financial reports at Board Meetings.

E. Third Vice-President for Membership: In charge of individual and family memberships. This office will:

1. Maintain a list of names and addresses of all members of Friends.
2. Compile lists of member volunteers and distribute these lists to the appropriate committee chairs.
3. Be responsible for recording all information from the Membership Forms.

F. Fourth Vice-President for Business Membership: In charge of business memberships. This office will:

1. Maintain a list of names and addresses of all business members of Friends.
2. Be responsible for recruiting and retaining business members.

G. Fifth Vice-President for Communication: In charge of all communications including social media (i.e. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram), website, newsletters, and publicity.

H. Secretary: Keep a record of the minutes of each meeting of Friends. The Secretary will:

1. Disseminate draft copies within two weeks after the meeting.
2. Prepare, mail, read and file all correspondence.
3. Prepare Resolutions as appropriate.

- I. Treasurer: Receive all money and keep an accurate account of all receipts and expenditures. The Treasurer will:
 - 1. Submit a financial report at all meetings.
 - 2. Make records available for an annual internal financial review.
 - 3. Chair the Finance Committee (Article VIII, Sect. D).
 - 4. Administer electronic methods of payment such as PayPal, credit card, or other electronic payment methods approved by the Board.

- J. Past President: Serve as a resource person for the Board and be responsible for or assist with special projects as requested.

- K. Parliamentarian: Appointed by the President. The duties will include:
 - 1. Ruling on parliamentary procedure.
 - 2. Giving advice to the chair, and when asked, to other members.
 - 3. Writing, interpreting and maintaining Bylaws, Standing Rules, and Special Development Funds Policies and Procedures.
 - 4. Chairing a committee to make an annual review of the Special Development Funds no later than April and make a report at the May Annual meeting.

ARTICLE VIII - FUNDS

- A. Friends will be authorized to accept funds from any individual, association or business to be used for any purposes consistent with the By Laws. (See Article II.)

- B. All funds will be deposited to the accounts of Friends of the Rockwall County Library and will be disbursed by the Treasurer upon the authorization of the Board. All checks must bear the signature of the Treasurer or the President.

- C. In the event of the dissolution of Friends, all assets will become the property of the Rockwall County Library.

- D. There will be a Finance Committee chaired by the Treasurer. Other members will be the President, President-Elect, and the current and incoming Second Vice-Presidents for Fundraising. This committee is responsible for:
 - 1. Preparing the annual budget, presenting the first draft in March of each year.
 - 2. Presenting the final draft to the Board no later than the April board meeting.
 - 3. Recommending no-risk investments of Friends funds.

- E. At the annual May meeting the membership will vote on a budget prepared and approved by the Board.

- F. The Board will elect a three-member Internal Financial Review Committee at the April or May Board meeting. The chair should have a working knowledge of accepted accounting practices. The members should have an understanding of financial procedures.
 - 1. The Committee will meet each year to conduct a review of the financial records for the fiscal year ending May 31.
 - 2. The outgoing Treasurer will have the financial records completed and available for review within two weeks following the end of the fiscal year.
 - 3. The outgoing Treasurer does not serve on this Committee but will be available at the time of the review to answer questions.
 - 4. The Committee will submit their findings to the current incoming President as soon as possible, but no later than July 15.

**ARTICLE IX
PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

In conducting business, Friends will be governed by the rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*.

**ARTICLE X
ADOPTION & AMENDMENTS OF STANDING RULES**

Standing Rules were created to provide instructions for the day-to-day operation of Friends and may be adopted or modified by the general membership at any properly called meeting at which a quorum is present. If the proposed changes have been submitted to the members at least two weeks prior to the meeting, a simple majority of those present may approve the rules or changes; otherwise a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present is required.

**ARTICLE XI
ADOPTION & AMENDMENTS OF BYLAWS**

These Bylaws may be amended if the Board approves the proposed amendments and the members are advised of the proposed amendments at least three weeks prior to a meeting where the issue is presented. The amendments must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present.

Amended: May 2000, September 2002, May 2005, May 2006, May 2008, May 2011, February 2016, February 2017, May 2017, April 2019, April 2023, April 2024