

Bylaws of the Rationalists of East Tennessee Amended and adopted April 6, 2014.

Article I: Name and Creation.

The name of this Organization is Rationalists of East Tennessee. The Organization has been created by Charter filed with the state of Tennessee, and every provision of the Charter shall be a provision of these Bylaws as if recited verbatim herein.

Article II: Purpose

Rationalists of East Tennessee is an Organization created to benefit people by expanding understanding of the universe through the use of empirical and rational methods.

Our purposes are:

- To foster an environment conducive to free speech and the exchange of ideas,
- To promote free inquiry for understanding the nature of the universe and of human societies,
- To encourage critical thinking in all aspects of human life,
- To emphasize the importance and effectiveness of the scientific method in contrast to supernatural belief systems,
- To advocate separation of church and state,
- To promote humanistic ethics in personal relationships and through community service,
- To provide a fellowship for people who share these purposes.

Notwithstanding other language (or provisions) in the creating document, the purposes will be limited exclusively to exempt purposes within the meaning of IRC 501(c)(3).

Article III: Membership

Section 1: General

Membership in the Organization shall be open to all persons who support or want to explore the purposes stated under Article II. Types of membership shall be Individual, Life and Honorary. The Board of Directors shall set the dues for each type of membership.

Section 2: Individual Membership

Individual membership shall be available to all dues-paying persons over the age of 16. The board may set a lower rate of dues for individual members who are students or on a low income.

Section 3: Life Membership

Life Memberships will not be offered after January 20, 2013. Individuals who acquired Life Memberships before January 20, 2013 will retain that status.

Section 4: Honorary Membership

Honorary membership may be conferred on a person who has been nominated by a member and approved by two-thirds of the Board. Honorary members may not vote or hold office or directorship.

Section 5: Conditions of Membership

Application for membership shall be made in writing, submitting name, address, and correct amount of dues to the Treasurer.

Individual dues are payable every 12 months following initial payment, without notification. Members shall be notified in writing if they are one month delinquent in payment, and shall be dropped from the rolls one month from notification if still in arrears. A member in arrears who has not yet been dropped from the rolls may not vote in elections or for amendments to the bylaws.

Membership terminates when a member is dropped for nonpayment of dues, resigns, or is expelled. Any member including life or honorary may be expelled by a majority vote of the Board for seriously obstructing the Organization's business, misappropriating the Organization's name or funds, or publicly discrediting the Organization.

Section 6: Members' Liability

No member shall be personally liable for the Organization's debts, obligations, or other liabilities.

Article IV: the Board of Directors

Section 1: Responsibilities

The Board shall be responsible for the Organization's affairs and policy, and has full power to act for the entire Organization. The Board may designate one or more spokespersons for the Organization. No person shall communicate with the media, public, or officials on behalf of the Organization who has not been authorized to do so by a majority of the Board. The Board shall appoint all committee chairs.

Section 2: Composition

The Board shall consist of no less than five Directors, including the Officers. Directors shall hold office for a term of one year or until their successors are elected. No person shall hold more than one office at the same time. The Board may appoint additional Directors to serve for specific purposes until the next election. No more than one third of the Board shall consist of appointed rather than elected Directors. Directors must be members.

Section 3: Resignation and Termination

Resignation from the Board must be in writing to the Board. A Board member can be removed or suspended by a majority vote of the Board.

Section 4: Meetings

Meetings of the Board may be called by the President and shall be called upon written request of three members of the Board. A quorum of the board shall be at least two thirds. The board shall hold its annual meeting before the Organization's annual meeting.

Section 5: Communication

The Board shall communicate its activities to the membership after each Board meeting.

Section 6: Indemnification

Board members shall serve without compensation, except for reimbursement of approved expenses. Anyone who acts unlawfully or with gross negligence will not be eligible for reimbursement for such unlawful or negligent activities. Unlawful action or gross negligence on the part of a board member shall be adjudicated by the other board members.

Article V: Officers

Section 1: General

The Organization shall have the following Officers: President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. These Officers shall perform the duties prescribed by these bylaws and by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Organization. There may also be other Officers whose duties shall be specified by the Board. An Officer shall be at least 18 years old and shall have been a member for at least one year. Officers shall hold office for a term of one year or until their successors are elected. An Officer may resign by notifying the Board in writing. If an office becomes vacant, the Board shall appoint a

successor to fill the unexpired term, unless the conditions for a special election are met pursuant to Article VIII Section 1.

Section 2: the President

The President shall be the chief executive Officer, coordinating the work of Officers and committees, and signing contracts. The President shall be ex-officio a member of all committees except for the Nominations and Elections Committee. Other Officers and committee chairpersons shall consult the President about their activities, and shall give the President a written report for the annual meeting if solicited.

Section 3: the Vice-President

The Vice-President becomes President if the President's office becomes vacant, and assumes the office temporarily if the vacancy is temporary. The Vice-President shall assist the President as requested.

Section 4: the Secretary

The Secretary shall (1) record the minutes of the Organization and Board meetings, (2) handle the Organization and Board correspondence, (3) maintain a permanent file of the Organization and Board bylaws and other documents, including Officers and committee chairpersons' reports, publications, and correspondence, (4) keep the official membership roll, (5) send out to the membership a notice of each meeting, and (6) compile the order of business for meetings.

Section 5: the Treasurer

The Treasurer shall (1) keep records of money received and spent, (2) safeguard the Organization's funds, (3) compile and submit an annual financial statement as required, (4) Provide record of dues payments to the Secretary as requested, and (5) invest funds if so directed by the Board, and following the Board's guidelines.

Article VI: Committees

The Committee chairs shall be responsible for selecting committee membership except for the Nominations and Elections Committee, which shall be appointed by the Board. The committee chairs shall provide a written report to the Secretary before each Board meeting.

Standing committees of the Organization may include the Fellowship, Community Action, Publicity, Membership, and Nominations and Elections Committees. Additional

standing committees can be added to the organization by approval of the Board of Directors. Special committees can be established by the Board to serve up to the next election. To continue after that time the committee must be re-established by the Board.

Article VII: Meetings

Section 1: Annual Meeting

The Organization shall hold an annual meeting, on a day and at a time and site determined by the Board and in time to give the members at least one month written notice. Any member may propose agenda items, in writing, to the Secretary, in advance of the meeting and by the deadline specified in the meeting announcement. At meetings, items may be added to the agenda with the approval of the majority of the members present. A quorum shall consist of the members present. Elections shall be conducted at the end of this meeting. Persons making nominations for officers must have the permission of the nominees.

Section 2: Special Meetings

Any member may write to the President requesting a special meeting, claiming that a situation requires immediate action. The President shall promptly present the request to the Board. The Board shall decide, within two weeks, whether and when to hold a special meeting. The special meeting, if deemed necessary, shall be held no later than four weeks after the President's initial receipt of the request. The President shall announce the special meeting to all members in writing, as soon as possible. A quorum shall consist of the members present.

For purposes of conducting official business of the Organization, a nonbusiness meeting shall not be construed as constituting a special meeting of the Organization unless the requirements of a special meeting have been met as provided in the preceding paragraph.

Article VIII: Elections

Section 1: Special Elections

A special election must be called by the Board if the Board must be supplemented to meet the required minimum number of Directors and the appointment of Directors already meets the maximum ratio as specified by Article IV Section 2.

Section 2: Regular Elections

The Nominations and Elections Committee will submit nominations at the Annual Meeting. Nominations from the floor will be taken immediately following the report of the Nominations and Elections Committee. Officers and Directors shall be elected by ballot.

In contests of more than two candidates, a plurality shall be sufficient.

Article IX: Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws, any standing rules or special rules of order the organization may adopt, or any statutes applicable to this organization.

Article X: Amendments to these Bylaws

These bylaws may be amended at an annual membership meeting or special meeting by a two-thirds vote, provided that previous notice of the purport of the amendment has been submitted to the members in writing. Technical amendments (i.e., a change in the bylaws which affects only spelling, grammar, punctuation, parallel structure, consistent usage, or the numbering or titling of the various parts of the bylaws or cross-references thereto) require only a majority vote of the Board for approval.

Article XI: Dissolution

Should the organization be dissolved, the assets shall be donated to organizations, or to specific activities, as approved by the Board, which have exempt purposes consistent with those described in Article II of the Bylaws.