Brockville Newcomers Club - By-Laws

BROCKVILLE
NEWCOMERS' CLUB

ARTICLE 1 – NAME

This organization shall be known as the "Brockville Newcomers Club" (hereinafter called the Club).

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization is to welcome new people to the City of Brockville and surrounding area. The Club arranges functions which enable people to socialize, exchange information, and generally become more integrated and familiar with their new surroundings.

ARTICLE III – FINANCES

The Club is funded by membership dues and fees paid by members and their guests for member events.

The fiscal year shall be from July 1st to June 30th.

ARTICLE IV – MEETINGS

A general meeting shall be held monthly on a date selected by the Executive Board (the Executive). Meetings will comprise Special Events and member luncheons. Club business will be conducted at member luncheons and not at special events. There shall be a recess from general meetings during July and August; however, many of the interest groups may be active throughout the summer. The Executive reserves the right to cancel a monthly meeting when circumstances dictate.

ARTICLE V – QUALIFICATIONS OF MEMBERSHIP, DUES, AND BENEFITS

Section 1. To be eligible for membership, an individual must:

a) submit dues and complete an application form for the current year.
b) have resided in the City of Brockville or the surrounding area for a period not exceeding five years prior to application for membership. On an individual basis, the five-year period in which to apply for membership may be waived.

Section 2.

a) Membership is on an individual basis

Section 3. Benefits of membership:

a) Club membership entitles all members in good standing to participate in the functions of the Club. These functions include monthly general meetings and special events as well as specific interest groups.
b) A member in good standing has paid in full for any membership fees and costs for meetings as charged by the club and is not the subject of an unresolved issue under Article V Section 8 below.
c) If there is a fee for an event, guest fees may differ from members' fees, reflecting an unsubsidized rate.
d) Members are responsible for payment of fees for themselves and any guests for nonattendance at any function if they do not cancel within the time frame specified in the invitation.
e) Members will be held responsible for reservations not cancelled 48 hours before the meeting, if the Club is charged for the reservation
f) Members must register to attend general meetings and special events, as non-registrants cannot be guaranteed entry.

Section 4. Membership Fees

All membership fees, as set by the Executive and voted upon by both active and social members, will be due upon member's annual renewal date. Renewal reminders will be sent out by email 30 days prior to the member's renewal date. Members will receive one telephone call (voice mail/message) and/or an email within 10 days prior to the member's renewal date. Members who fail to renew their membership by their renewal date will lose access to all member benefits, including the Member Section of the website. If a member wishes to reapply, they can simply do so on the website with no intervention by the Executive. Dues are non-refundable.

Section 5. A potential member may attend two meetings prior to becoming a member.

Section 6. Types of Membership

a) An Active membership will last five years from the month of joining, up to and including the month of joining the club.
b) All those who have completed five years of active, uninterrupted membership are able to remain in the club as Social members. Active and Social membership fees are the same. All members are entitled to receive all communications from the club, the monthly newsletter, and to attend all functions. Only Social members shall be eligible to be elected as the Social Member Representative. The Social Member Representative will also be eligible to take on an Officer position, if no Active member is available.

Section 7. Interest Groups

a) All members of the interest groups must be members of the Club.
b) All members attending an interest group must be pre-registered with the Convenor of that group.
c) Interest groups may set their own membership guidelines, provided they align with the Club's by-laws. These guidelines will be published in the Club's newsletter and on the website.
d) The role of the Interest Group Convenor includes developing guidelines for the group in consultation with members, confirming group membership, organizing group meetings in accordance with the guidelines, preparing a monthly summary of the previous and upcoming meetings for the Newsletter and the Club's website, and bringing any unresolved issues to the attention of the Interest Group Coordinator (Section 8 below).

Section 8. Conflict Resolution

The Executive shall have the authority to suspend or expel any member from the Club for any one or more of the following grounds:

a) Failing to abide by the by-laws of the Club.
b) Acting in a manner that is deemed detrimental to the purposes of the Club.

The Executive shall implement a policy and procedure to address and resolve conflicts among members.

ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1a. Elected Officers of the Club are as follows:

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Interest Groups Coordinator
Membership Registrar
Meeting Registrar
Newsletter Editor
Special Events Coordinator
Social Member Representative

Section 1b. Appointed Members of the Executive Committee are as follows:

Member at Large
Website Manager

The Executive Committee will have the authority to appoint ad hoc positions as required.

All members of the Executive are expected to attend the monthly Executive meetings. The Past President attends as an advisor. A brief description of these positions is outlined in Schedule A. This schedule may be updated from time to time to reflect position changes, without the need to amend the by-laws.

Section 2. Vacancies in elected offices shall be filled for the remainder of the term by appointment by the Executive Board.

Section 3. All officers shall be elected for a twelve-month period from July to June. The President may serve for two years for continuity purposes.

Section 4. A three-member nominating committee shall be appointed by the Executive in January or February. The committee shall ideally include two eligible Executive members and one member from the membership. If fewer than two Executive members are eligible, the remaining seats shall be filled by members from the membership, provided at least one is an active member.

The committee must adhere to guidelines established by the Executive. Members of this committee are prohibited from running for elected office.

A slate of candidates for each officer position shall be presented at the April general meeting, at which point additional candidates may be nominated from the floor, provided the nominee has given their explicit approval.

Section 5. A majority of members present shall be sufficient to elect Officers at the May or June meeting. Voting may be by ballot if there is more than one nominee for any office.

ARTICLE VII – AUDITING

A review of the books by two members-at-large will be made once a year after the fiscal year-end prior to the September meeting. The reviewed financial statements will be presented at the September members' meeting. Books and records of the Club may be inspected by any member of the Club at any time, upon reasonable notice.

ARTICLE VIII – GOVERNANCE

Section 1. The Club shall be governed by an Executive consisting of the Elected Officers and the immediate Past President.

Section 2. Meetings of the Executive shall be arranged by the President. A quorum shall consist of the majority of the Executive.

Section 3. Business, including voting, may be transacted by both active and social members present at any regular meeting. A majority vote is required.

ARTICLE IX - INDEMNIFICATION OF OFFICERS

Every Officer of the Club and his or her heirs, executors and administrators respectively shall from time to time, and at all times, be indemnified and saved harmless out of the funds of the Club only from and against:

a) all costs, charges and expenses whatsoever such Officer sustains or incurs in or about any action, suit or proceeding that is brought, commences or prosecuted against him or her for or in respect of any deed, act, matter or thing whatsoever made, done or committed by him or her, in or about the execution of the duties of his or her office.
b) all other costs, charges and expenses he or she sustains or incurs in or about or in relation to the affairs of the Club; except such costs, charges and expenses as are occasioned by his or her own negligence or default, or failure to act honestly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of the Club.

ARTICLE X - AMENDMENTS

These by-laws may be amended or repealed at any general meeting of the Club by a two-thirds vote of all active and social members present. This requires a notice of intent to change the by-laws to be given at the previous meeting and published in the preceding newsletter.

Amendments:

June 7, 2006; June 2011; June 4, 2014; May 6, 2015; May 3, 2017; May 15, 2024

Passed this 15th day of March 2026

President

John Cushing

Vice President

Vince Aragona