

San Marcos Area League of Women Voters Bylaws

As amended May 8, 2008

Article I Name

Section 1. Name

The name of this organization shall be the San Marcos Area League of Women Voters. This local League is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States and of the League of Women Voters of Texas.

Article II Purpose and Policy

Section 1. Purpose

The purpose of the San Marcos Area League of Women Voters is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

Section 2. Political Policy

The League shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.

Article III Membership

Section 1. Eligibility

Any person who subscribes to the purpose and policy of the League shall be eligible for membership.

Section 2. Types of Membership

- a. Individual Members. Citizens at least 18 years of age who are enrolled in the League. Those who reside outside the area of any local League may join this local League or shall be state members-at-large.
- b. Household Members. Two members who reside at the same household. Dues shall be one and one-half times the individual annual rate.
- c. Inactive and Guilt Free members. Citizens at least 18 years of age who wish to join the League, but not participate in regular meetings or activities. Dues shall be a minimum of State and National League annual fees, called per member payment.

Article IV Board of Directors

Section 1. Number, Selection and Term of Office

The board of directors shall consist of the officers and directors of the League, the number to be determined by the needs of the League. They shall be elected by the general membership at each annual meeting and shall serve for a term of one year, or until their successors have been elected and qualified. The elected members shall appoint such additional directors as they deem necessary to carry on the work of the League. The terms of the appointed directors shall expire concurrently with the terms of office of the elected directors.

Section 2. Qualifications

All elected and appointed officers and directors of this League must be voting member of the San Marcos Area League of Women Voters.

Section 3. Vacancies

Any vacancy occurring in the board of directors by reason of the resignation, death, or disqualification of an officer or elected member may be filled, until the next annual meeting, by a majority vote of the remaining members of the board of directors. Three consecutive(s) absences from board meeting of any member, without a valid reason, shall be deemed a resignation.

Section 4. Powers and Duties

The board of directors shall have full charge of the property and business of the organization, with full power and authority to manage and conduct same, subject to the instructions of the general membership. It shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out the program as adopted by the national convention, the state convention, and the annual meeting. The board shall create and designate such special committees as it may deem necessary.

Section 5. Meetings

There shall be as many meetings as deemed necessary to carry out the work of the League. The president may call special meetings of the board of directors and shall call a special meeting upon the written request of a majority of board members.

Section 6. Quorum

A majority of the members of the board of directors shall constitute a quorum.

Article V Officers

Section 1. Enumeration and Election of Officers

The officers of the San Marcos Area League of Women Voters shall be a president, a first vice-president, a second vice-president, a third vice-president, a secretary, and a treasurer or only those deemed necessary to carry out the work of the League. The officers shall be elected for a term of one year by the general membership at the annual meeting and take office June 1. As many officers as are elected shall share the responsibilities outlined in the remaining section of this article.

Section 2. The President

The president shall preside at all meetings of the organization and of the board of directors unless the president shall designate another person to preside. In the absence or disability of the treasurer, the president may sign or endorse checks, drafts, and notes. The president shall be, ex officio, a member of all committees except the nominating committee. The president shall have such usual powers of supervision and management as may pertain to the office of the president and perform such other duties as may be designated by the board.

Section 3. The Vice Presidents

The three vice-presidents, in the order of their rank, shall in the event of absence, disability, or death of the president, possess all the powers and perform all the duties of that office, until such time as the board of directors shall elect one of its members to fill the vacancy. The vice-presidents shall perform such other duties as the president may designate.

Section 4. The Treasurer

The treasurer shall collect and receive all monies due; be the custodian of these monies; deposit them in a bank or banks designated by the board of directors; and disburse them only upon order of the board. The treasurer shall present statements to the board at their regular meetings and an annual report to the annual meeting.

Article VI Financial Administration

Section 1. Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the San Marcos Area League of Women Voters shall commence on the first day of June of each year.

Section 2. Dues

Annual dues shall be payable at the beginning of each fiscal year. Dues for new members joining after January 1 shall be one-half (1/2) the annual dues.

Section 3. Budget

A budget for the ensuing year shall be submitted by the board of directors to the annual meeting for adoption. The budget shall include support for the work of the League as a whole.

Section 4. Budget Committee

A budget committee shall be appointed by the board of directors at least two months prior to the annual meeting to prepare a budget for the ensuing year. The proposed budget shall be sent to all members one month before the annual meeting. The treasurer shall not be eligible to serve as chairperson of the budget committee.

Article VII Meetings

Section 1. Membership Meetings

There shall be a many meetings of the membership each year as deemed necessary to carry out the work of the League. Time and place shall be determined by the board of directors.

Section 2. Annual Meeting

An annual meeting shall be held between April 15 and May 15 each year, the exact date to be determined by the board of directors. The annual meeting shall:

- a. adopt a local program for the ensuing year,
- b. elect officers, directors, members of the nominating committee,
- c. adopt an adequate budget, and
- d. transact such other business as may properly come before it.

Section 3. Quorum

At least 20% of the total membership shall constitute a quorum at all meeting ~~or~~ (of) the San Marcos Areas League of Women Voters.

Article VIII Nominations and Elections

Section 1. Nominating Committee

The nominating committee shall consist of three members, one of whom shall be a member of the board of directors. Chairperson and one member shall be elected at the annual meeting. Nominations for these officers shall be made by the current nominating committee. The new board shall appoint one of its members to the committee as soon as possible after June 1. Any vacancy on the nominating committee shall be filled by the board of directors. Suggestions for nominations for officers and directors may be sent to this committee by any voting member.

Section 2. Report of Nominating committee and Nominations from the Floor

The report of the nominating committee of its nominations for officers, directors, and the members of the succeeding nominating committee shall be sent to all members one month before the date of the annual meeting. The report of the nominating committee shall be presented to the annual meeting. Immediately following the presentation of this report nominations may be made from the floor by any voting member provided the consent of the nominee shall have been secured.

Section 3. Elections

The election shall be by ballot, except that if there is but one nominee for each office it shall be by voice vote. A majority vote of those present and qualified to vote and voting shall constitute an election. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted.

Article IX Program

Section 1. Authorization

The governmental Principles adopted by the national convention, and supported by the League as a whole, constitute the authorization for the adoption of the local League program.

Section 2. Program

The program of the San Marcos Area League of Women Voters may consist of:

- a. action to implement the Principles, and
- b. those local governmental issues chosen for concerted study and action.

Article X National and State Conventions and Councils

Section 1. National Convention

The board of directors, at a meeting before the date on which the names of delegates must be sent to the national office, shall select delegates to that convention in the number allotted the San Marcos Area League of Women Voters under the provisions of the bylaws of the League of Women Voters of the United States.

Section 2. State Convention

The board of directors, at a meeting before the date on which the names of delegates must be sent to state office, shall select delegates to that convention in the number allotted the San Marcos Area League of Women Voters under the provisions of the bylaws of the League of Women Voters of Texas.

Section 3. State Council

The board of directors, at a meeting before the date on which the names of delegates must be sent to the state office, shall select delegates to that council in the number allotted the San Marcos Area League of Women Voters under the provisions of the bylaws of the League of Women Voters of Texas.

Article XI Parliamentary Authority

Section 1. Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in Roberts 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.

Article XII Amendments

Section 1. Amendments

These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at the annual meeting, provided the proposed amendments were submitted to the membership in writing at least one month in advance of the meeting.

Section 2. Emergency Action

Emergency action may be taken on bylaws when approved by the board, and a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at a general meeting, provided the amendments were submitted to the membership in writing at least one month in advance of the meeting.