

THE ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY, NEW YORK BRANCH, INC.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I NAME

The name of the corporation is the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, New York Branch, Inc. (hereinafter "Branch").

ARTICLE II GENERAL ORGANIZATION AND PURPOSES

- (1) The Branch is a branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Edinburgh, Scotland (hereinafter "RSCDS"), and adheres to its Articles of Association and Rules and Procedures.
- (2) The object of the Branch is to preserve and further the practice of traditional Scottish country dancing.
- (3) The Branch is organized exclusively for cultural and educational purposes, and no part of its net earnings or capital shall inure to the benefit of any private individual.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

- (1) Any individual of at least twelve years of age interested in the objectives of the RSCDS may become a Branch member on payment of RSCDS subscription and Branch dues.
- (2) Anyone holding RSCDS membership through Headquarters or another Branch may become a Branch member on payment of Branch dues reduced by RSCDS subscription.
- (3) Branch dues are set by the Executive Committee, and include the RSCDS subscription as set by RSCDS in General Meeting.
- (4) By a two-thirds vote the Executive Committee may refuse, suspend, or terminate the membership of any individual.

ARTICLE IV OFFICERS

- (1) The officers are (a) President, (b) Vice President, (c) Treasurer, (d) Recording Secretary, and (e) Corresponding Secretary. Each officer must be a Branch member.
- (2) The duties of such officers are those usually incident to such offices plus those specifically assigned by the Executive Committee or the general membership.

ARTICLE V EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- (1) The Executive Committee consists of twelve members – the five Officers named in Article IV (1), the immediate past President, and six Branch members as Members at Large. At least one Executive Committee member serves as a liaison to each of the following Committees: Pawling Committee, JC Ball Committee, Teachers' Committee.
- (2) The Executive Committee administers the affairs of the Branch.
- (3) Meetings are held at the call of the President. At least four meetings are to be held each year.
- (4) The quorum for an Executive Committee meeting is five Executive Committee members.
- (5) The term of Officers and Members at Large is two years, and is renewable. Terms are arranged so that approximately one half expire in each successive year.
- (6) The President shall call a Special Meeting on the written request of any three Committee members.
- (7) Meetings are open to all Branch members unless the Committee is in executive session.
- (8) Vacancies occurring other than at the time of the Annual General Meeting may be filled by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VI NOMINATING COMMITTEE

- (1) At least three months before the Annual General Meeting, the President, with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee, appoints three Branch members who are not members of the Executive Committee as a Nominating Committee.
- (2) Their term is one year. They may be appointed for not more than two additional terms.
- (3) At least three weeks before the Annual General Meeting, the Nominating Committee presents to the membership a slate of candidates for the Officers and Members at Large. There shall be at least one name for each position expected to be vacant, including unexpired terms.
- (4) Any Branch member may make additional nominations, with the consent of the nominee, in writing or from the floor.
- (5) Voting for the vacancies, unless unopposed, is by secret ballot at the Annual General Meeting, two tellers being appointed from the floor.
- (6) Absentee ballots and proxies are not permitted.

ARTICLE VII TEACHERS' COMMITTEE

- (1) The Teachers' Committee consists of (a) all Branch members who have passed Part 1 of the RSCDS teachers' qualification, (b) the President, (c) the Executive Committee liaison

referred to in Article V (1) above, and (d) other Branch members as decided by the Teachers' Committee.

- (2) It is responsible for
 - a) Standards of dance style and teaching
 - b) Ascertaining teachers' preferences and availability, and making assignment recommendations to the Executive Committee, which has the sole responsibility for hiring teachers
 - c) Preparing candidates for teachers' examinations
 - d) Approving the annual dance list
 - e) Demonstration teams
- (3) It meets at least once a year.
- (4) It elects one of its members Chair and one Secretary.
- (5) It may appoint subcommittees of one or more members, such as the Dance List Committee.

ARTICLE VIII OTHER COMMITTEES

- (1) The Executive Committee or the general membership appoints Branch members to other committees or posts, assigns the duties thereof, and sets forth other aspects of the organization (for example: Pawling Committee, JC Ball Committee, Burns Night Committee, Finance Committee, Meet and Greet Committee).
- (2) Such other Committees should consist of a Chair and Vice Chair subject to the Executive Committee's approval, as well as other members as needed. The term of Chair is two years, renewable. The Vice Chair is expected to serve as the next Chair.
- (3) Any such other Committees handling finances must include the Branch Treasurer as a member.
- (4) Such other Committees shall report regularly either to the Executive Committee or to the general membership, or to both.
- (5) Other Committees may co-opt individuals who are not Branch members.

ARTICLE IX GENERAL MEETINGS OF THE MEMBERS

- (1) The Annual General Meeting of members is held in May or June, on a date set by the Executive Committee.
- (2) Special meetings of members may be called by the President, the Executive Committee, or fifteen Branch members.

- (3) The general membership is the ultimate governing body of the Branch. It may reverse or amend actions of any Committee or Officer by a two-thirds vote of all members present and voting at a general meeting.
- (4) The quorum for any action other than adjournment is the lesser of one-fourth of the members or twenty-five.
- (5) Two weeks notice of annual or special meetings is required except in case of emergency.
- (6) Questions of order are settled by the Presiding Officer by reference to Robert's Rules of Order (Revised), the Articles of Association and Rules and Procedures of RSCDS, and the Bylaws of the Branch.
- (7) Meetings are open to any interested person but only Branch members may speak or vote.

ARTICLE X FISCAL YEAR

- (1) The fiscal year of the Branch starts on July first. The newly elected members of the Executive Committee formally assume office on this date.

ARTICLE XI AUDIT

- (1) The accounts maintained by the Treasurer shall be audited annually.

ARTICLE XII AMENDMENTS

- (1) Amendments to the Bylaws may be proposed by the Executive Committee or, in writing, by fifteen members.
- (2) Two weeks notice of proposed amendments is given to the members.
- (3) Amendments are adopted at either an annual or special meeting of the members by two-thirds of those voting.

ARTICLE XIII DISBANDMENT

- (1) The balance of the funds, after all liabilities have been met, shall be transferred to a recognized charitable body or bodies having objects similar to those of the Branch (excluding geographical limitations) as the members in General Meeting, whom failing, the Committee, shall decide.

Adopted by the AGM on May 9, 2019.