

Draft Constitution

Preamble

We, the undersigned, wishing to secure for ourselves the pleasures and benefits of an association of persons commonly interested in Amateur Radio, **and enact this constitution as our governing law, that constitutes ourselves as the:**

Frederick Amateur Radio Club, Inc. of Frederick, Maryland

Article 1 Purpose

It shall be our purpose to further the exchange of information and cooperation between members, to promote radio knowledge, ~~fraternality and~~ **camaraderie**, individual operating efficiency, and to ~~so~~ conduct club programs and activities so as to advance the general interest and welfare of **the** Amateur Radio community. ~~for the purpose of enhancing operator capabilities. when called on in the event of an emergency.~~

Article II Membership

All persons interested in Amateur Radio communications shall be eligible for membership. Membership shall be by application and election upon such terms as the club shall provide in its By-Laws.

Membership may not be denied because of race, creed, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, political affiliation, marital status or any other reason that would be biased or prejudicial.

Article III Officers

Section 1. Officers

The officers of this club shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. The Board of Directors shall be made up of these officers, and the President shall be the Chairperson of the Board.

Section 2. Election

The officers of this club shall be elected for a term of one year by ~~ballot~~ **vote** of the members present **and/or online**, provided there be a quorum, at the annual meeting.

Section 3. Vacancies

Vacancies occurring between elections must be filled by special elections at the first regular meeting following the withdrawal or resignation.

Section 4. Eligibility

In order to hold an office, an individual must be a member in good standing and hold a valid Amateur Radio license.

Section 5. **End of Term or Resignation**

~~Any officer may resign his/her position in writing at which time~~ **All records and/or assets shall be returned per Article XI.** ~~of the club will be turned over to the President or Vice President.~~

Section 6. Removal of Officers

1. Officers may be removed from office for cause, upon written petition of six (6) or more members presented to the President or Vice President.
2. After investigation, the petition will be presented to the membership at the next regular meeting of the club and voted on by the membership.
3. Removal of an officer requires a two-thirds vote of the members in good standing, either in person or by absentee vote. All absentee votes may be cast in writing or electronically.
4. **See Article XI for disposition of records and/or assets.**

Article IV Duties of Officers

Section 1. President

The President shall preside at all meetings, and conduct them according to the rules adopted. He/she shall enforce due observance of this Constitution and By-Laws, decide all questions of order, sign all official documents adopted by the club, and perform all other duties pertaining to the office of President. **The President has the authority to form and dissolve teams/committees as needed.**

Section 2. Vice President

The Vice-President shall assume all the duties of the President in his/her absence. In addition, he/she shall organize club activities, plan and recommend contests for operating benefits, and advance club interest and activity as approved by the club. He/she shall maintain close liaison with the ARRL's local ARES Emergency Coordinator to further club participation in the Amateur Radio Emergency Service.

Section 3. Secretary

The Secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of all meetings, submit membership applications, carry on all correspondence, read communications at each meeting, and send written meeting notices to each member through the "Reflector" or other available electronic means. ~~Those members not having access to email will be contacted by telephone or by mail.~~ At the expiration of his/her term he/she shall turn over all items belonging to the club to his/her successor.

It shall also be the duty of the Secretary to keep the Constitution and By-Laws of the club and have the same with him/her at every meeting. He/she shall note all amendments, changes and additions to the constitution and shall permit it to be consulted by members upon request.

Section 4. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall receive and provide receipt for all monies paid to the club, keep a roll of members, keep an accurate account of all monies received and expended, pay no bills in excess of \$100.00 ~~(one hundred dollars)~~ **\$250.00 (two hundred and fifty dollars)** without proper authorization (by the club or its officers constituting a business committee). At the end of each quarter he/she shall **maintain an** itemized statement of disbursements and receipts.

The treasurer shall prepare or oversee the preparation of and submit to the ~~Internal Revenue Service (IRS)~~ **State and Federal authorities** any and all required Tax ~~return~~ information on a yearly basis. At the end of his/her term he/she shall turn over everything in his/her possession belonging to the club to his/her successor.

Article V Meetings

The By-Laws shall provide for regular and special meetings. ~~At meetings, a minimum of thirty three percent of the members in good standing, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.~~ Robert's Rules of Order shall govern proceedings.

Section 1. Quorum

A minimum of ~~thirty three~~ **fifteen** percent of the members in good standing shall **present and/or online shall** constitute a quorum.

Article VI Dues

The Board shall ~~club, by majority vote of those present at any regular meeting, provided there is a quorum, may~~ levy upon the general membership **at the December meeting**, such dues or assessments as shall be deemed necessary for the business of the organization. **Change in dues will take effect in January following the December meeting.** Non-payment of such dues or

assessments shall be cause for expulsion from the club **as stated in By-Laws - 4. Dues Fees and Assessments.** ~~with the discretion of the membership.~~

Article VII Membership Assistance

The club, through an informal program of member assistance, will provide technical advice to members concerning equipment design and operation to assist in frequency observance, clean signals, uniform practice, and absence of spurious radiation's from club member-stations. The club shall also maintain a program to foster and guide public relations.

Article VIII Club Callsign

The club may elect to apply for a club call sign as provided by FCC rules Part 97. The President shall assign trusteeship of the club call sign.

The trustee shall:

1. Be a member of the club in good standing and hold a valid Amateur Extra class license.
2. Not had his/her Radio Amateur license revoked or sanctioned at any time.

Article IX Dissolution of the Club

Section 1. Termination of Operations

In the event that the Board of Directors votes that the Club should be dissolved the motion for dissolution must receive more than two thirds vote of the members in good standing (either in person or by absentee vote) to pass.

Section 2. Disposition of Assets

1. The Board of Directors shall handle the disbursement of all assets of the club.
2. No member or group of members shall receive benefit from the assets.
3. All equipment will be sold and net proceeds donated to a non profit organization.
4. All remaining cash will be donated to a non profit organization.

Article X Amendments

Proposals to amend the Constitution and/or By-Laws shall be submitted in writing at a regular meeting, discussed at the next regular meeting, and voted on at the following regular meeting. Voting may be conducted in person or by absentee ballot. Constitution and/or By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members in good standing.

~~Proposals for amendments shall be submitted in writing at a regular meeting, on at the next following regular meeting or by absentee vote provided all members have been notified by mail of the intent to amend the constitution and/or By-Laws at said meeting.~~

Article XI Records and Assets

Any officer or member holding records and/or assets, shall return all to the President and/or Vice president upon their termination or request by the Board in leaving the club.

By-Laws

1. Constitution and By-Laws

As noted in Article ~~III~~ **IV** section 3: The Constitution and By-Laws of the club shall be available at all club meetings for meeting attendees to consult as desired. In addition, the Constitution and By-Laws shall be made available through the club's web site from where they can be downloaded by each member as desired.

2. Membership

- A. Membership is open to anyone interested in amateur radio.
- B. Membership includes all club privileges as well as the right to vote for club officers.
- C. Applications for membership shall be submitted at regular meetings and approved by a majority vote of those members present.

3. Meetings

Regular meetings shall be held on the third Monday of each calendar month. Special meetings may be called by ~~the President upon the written request of~~ any five club members. Notices shall be sent to members concerning special meetings and the business to be transacted. Only such business as designated shall be transacted. Such notices shall be sent so that they arrive not less than 24 hours before the meeting.

4. Dues Fees and Assessments

- 1. ~~Annual dues are currently set at~~ of \$15.00 per member ~~and are hereby assessed in accordance with the provisions of Article V of the constitution for the purpose of providing funds for expenses.~~
- 1. Membership dues **are set by the Board at the December meeting and** are payable in January of each year.

2. Any member whose dues are not paid by ~~the~~ March ~~meeting~~ 1st will be considered inactive and removed from the membership roster. Inactive members may re-achieve active status by paying dues owed for the year in which they wish to become re-activated.
3. ~~Termination of membership either by resignation or expulsion will not constitute a refund of dues paid.~~
3. New members joining in October or later shall be considered fully paid for the upcoming year.
4. The Board has the authority to waive dues for a member.

5. Elections

1. Officer elections will be held annually at the regular January meeting.
2. Officers will assume their elected office at the next regular meeting.
3. In the case of an unopposed slate the President may entertain a motion for the Secretary to cast a single vote.
4. Candidate(s) shall be elected as defined in Article III of the Constitution.
5. Nominations may be made any time up to the January election.

6. ~~Nomination Committee~~

~~The committee will present a ballot to the president at the regular meeting one two month prior to elections at which time the President will entertain a motion for nominations and to accept the ballot.~~

1. ~~The President may appoint a nomination committee six months prior to elections.~~
2. ~~The committee will be charged with finding qualified candidates to run for office.~~
3. ~~The final ballot will be published and made available to all club members.~~
4. ~~The President will dissolve the nomination committee after the annual elections.~~

7. Voting

1. Voting will be done by show of hands and/or voice vote. The Secretary shall count the votes. using paper ballots or by absentee ballot.
2. Absentee ballots may be cast in writing or electronically and must be received by the President the day before the election takes place.
3. Immediately after voting, the ballots will be counted openly in front of the membership.
4. Any candidate may request a recount of the ballots.