

# **Constitution/Bylaws of The Villages Republican Club**

## **ARTICLE I – NAME**

The name shall be The Villages Republican Club (TVRC) herein referred to as the Club.

## **ARTICLE II – MISSION and OBJECTIVES**

**Section 1:** The mission of the Club shall be to provide meaningful opportunities via a variety of mediums (e.g. monthly and special in-person conferences, website, newsletter, internet and social media) for Club members and other likeminded residents of the Villages to become better informed about the U.S. Constitution and relevant U.S. history, the art and science of a representative republic form of government, Republican principles and practices, and current events.

**Section 2:** The objectives of the Club shall be:

- (a) To attract members into, and involve them in, the Republican Party and subsequently provide them with a practical means of Republican Party participation, leadership training and political involvement at all levels of government.
- (b) To support the principles, objectives, and platform of the Republican Party and to help secure the election of all duly nominated Republican candidates in the General Election and registered Republicans in non-partisan elections.

## **ARTICLE III - MEMBERS**

**Section 1:** The Club shall recognize two classes of membership:

- (a) Active - Any Florida registered Republican voter who resides within the boundaries of The Villages.
- (b) Associate - Any Registered Republican voter, regardless of the State, not meeting the qualifications of (a) above.

**Section 2:** The annual dues for all members shall be payable upon becoming a member and then annually as determined by the Policy and Procedures of the Club.

**Section 3:** Notwithstanding the failure to pay dues, any member may have his/her membership revoked for cause, cause stated, upon a majority determination of the Executive Board.

## **ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS**

**Section 1:** The officers of the Club shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. All Officers must be an Active Member of the Club as defined in Article III Section 1: (a), and a Club member in good standing.

**Section 2:** Officers shall be nominated annually at the regular meeting in October, elected at the regular meeting in November, and serve a one-year term from January (meeting) to January (meeting) in accordance with the Policy and Procedures of the Club.

**Section 3:** The duties of the officers shall be:

- (a) The President shall preside over all meetings of the Club and its Executive Board, appoint all Committee Chairpersons with the concurrence of the Executive Board, and exercise general supervision over all activities of the Club.
- (b) The Vice President shall assist the President in supervising the activities of the Club, preside at all meetings in the absence of the President, and effect the annual audit of all Club financial transactions.

(c) The Secretary shall be the recording officer of the Club, including meetings of the Club and Executive Board, and shall keep a record of the minutes of all such meetings, making those minutes available to the general membership and maintain all official records of the Club, including the Charter, Constitution and Bylaws, Policy and Procedures, Treasurer reports, and financial audit reports.

(d) The Treasurer shall collect all funds paid to the Club or any of its committees, and deposit same in accounts designated by the Club. The Treasurer shall be responsible for making all authorized expenditures and provide at each regular meeting a report of receipts and expenditures and the financial status of the Club. Further the Treasurer will be responsible for reporting and compliance with all Statutory and RPOF requirements.

(e) The President and Treasurer shall be jointly accountable for the funds of the Club and jointly liable for their proper expenditure. All financial transactions individually greater than \$500.00 shall require the authorization of the President or, in his or her absence, the Vice-President, specifically in writing or by signature.

**Section 4:** Any Officer may be removed from office for cause, upon a recommendation from the Executive Board and a majority vote at any regular meeting, or a special meeting called for that purpose.

**Section 5:** In the event of any Officer vacancy, except President, for whatever reason or cause; the Executive Board shall have the responsibility and authority to appoint an interim or acting Officer to that position to assure continuity and the efficient operation of the Club until a new Officer is elected at the next regular meeting of the Club after the vacancy becomes known, provided the membership is advised of the vacancy not less than seven (7) days prior to the meeting and a qualified candidate is identified.

**Section 6:** In the event the office of President becomes vacant; the Vice President shall temporarily assume the duties of the Office of the President until a new President is elected at the next regular meeting of the Club after the vacancy becomes known, provided the membership is advised of the vacancy not less than seven (7) days prior to the meeting and a qualified candidate is identified.

## **ARTICLE V - MEETINGS**

**Section 1:** Regular meetings of the Club shall be held at the date, time and location specified by the Executive Board. The Club shall hold a minimum of six (6) regular meetings each year.

**Section 2:** The regular meeting held during the month of November shall be the Annual Meeting of the Club and shall be for, but not limited to, the election of officers.

**Section 3:** Special meetings may be called by the President or by the Executive Board, or by written request of twenty percent (20%) of the Active Members of the Club, provided at least ten (10) days' notice must be given to the Members and the purpose, place and time of the special meeting must be stated in the notice. If called by written request of the Active Membership, those members effecting the call shall be responsible for the proper notifications, however, the then current Club leadership shall provide such administrative information as is necessary to affect the call.

**Section 4:** Only Active members shall be allowed to vote on matters of business, by-laws, or policy. Pursuant to the Republican Party of Florida Rules of Procedure, proxy voting shall not be allowed in any election or meeting of the Club.

**Section 5:** Twenty percent (20%) of the Club's Active membership shall constitute a quorum.

## **ARTICLE VI - EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**Section 1:** The Officers, the most immediate available Past President (appointed to a term to expire at the next January meeting), and all Standing Committee Chairpersons shall constitute the Executive Board of the Club, however, no person shall occupy more than one titled position on the Board. A majority of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum, and a majority of the Board present and voting shall be sufficient to effect business, however, the unanimous vote of all Officers shall otherwise effect the final Board decision.

**Section 2:** The Executive Board shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Club between regular meetings of the Club. The Executive Board shall be subject to the direction set by vote of the Active members of the Club, and none of its' acts shall conflict with the orders and actions taken by the Club.

**Section 3:** The President shall fix the time and place for meetings of the Board sufficient to address and effect the affairs of the Club.

**Section 4:** Special meetings of the Executive Board may be called by the President or upon written request of three members of the Executive Board.

## **ARTICLE VII - COMMITTEES**

**Section 1:** There shall be Standing Committees to include, but not be limited to, the following: Membership Committee, Program Committee, Publicity Committee and Welcome Committee. All duties and responsibilities of the Standing Committees shall be as outlined in the Policy and Procedures of the Club.

**Section 2:** The President, with the concurrence of the Executive Board, shall establish such Temporary and/or Ad Hoc Committees as are required to conduct the business of the Club. The duties and responsibilities of Temporary and/or Ad Hoc Committees shall be as defined by Executive Board action, shall have a specific defined term, and shall be reported to the membership at the next regular meeting of the Club.

**Section 3:** The President, with the concurrence of the Executive Board, shall appoint Chairpersons for all Standing, Temporary or Ad Hoc Committees. All said appointments shall expire per Policy and Procedures.

## **ARTICLE VIII - ENDORSEMENTS AND INTRA-PARTY DIFFERENCES**

**Section 1:** Pursuant to the Republican Party of Florida's "Rules of Procedure," no chartered club or organization using the name "Republican" shall participate in intra-party differences, nor shall it, as an organization, seek to influence the nomination or election of any Republican over another Republican unless the Sumter County Republican Executive Committee has endorsed one Republican over another. Then the Club may seek to influence the election of the candidate endorsed by the Sumter County Republican Executive Committee. The Club shall not entertain motions to adopt platform positions on issues or endorse candidates except that they may entertain such motions to take the same position or endorse the same candidate as the Sumter County Republican Executive Committee has taken. Under no circumstances shall the Club invite a known non-Republican to be a guest speaker at a Club meeting or function without prior approval of the Sumter County Republican Executive Committee Executive Board.

**Section 2:** The Chairman of the Republican Party of Florida shall be the authority with respect to internal disputes referred by the Club or member of the Club as chartered under this rule.

### **ARTICLE IX - PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern the Club in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws, the Republican Party of Florida Constitution, the Republican Party of Florida Rules of Procedure, and any special rules of order the Club may adopt.

### **ARTICLE X - CONSTITUTION/BYLAWS**

The Constitution/Bylaws of the Club shall be approved and/or amended at any regular or special meeting of the Club by a two-thirds majority vote when a quorum of the Active Members is present, provided at least fifteen (15) days' notice must be given to the Active Members, said notice to include the specific wording of the document or change to be addressed at the meeting.

### **ARTICLE XI - POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

**Section 1:** To assure compliance and efficient application of the provisions of this Constitution/Bylaws, Policy and Procedures may be adopted and implemented by the Executive Board, subject to objection and recall of the membership at any regular meeting of the Club, or any Special Meeting called for that purpose, by a two-thirds majority vote when a quorum of the Active Members is present.

**Section 2:** All properly adopted Policy or Procedure shall be identified, wherever and whenever possible, consistent with the Article and Section of this Constitution/By-Laws said Policy or Procedure is intended to elaborate upon.

### **ARTICLE XII - COMPLIANCE**

Nothing in this Constitution/Bylaws or the Policy and Procedures of the Club may conflict with any State of Florida Statutory Provisions governing political party committees, The Constitutions and Rules of Procedures of the Republican Party of Florida and/or the Sumter County Republican Executive Committee Constitution and Rules of Procedure.

President: \_\_\_\_\_



Typed Name: William Ockington

Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_



Typed Name: William Statom

Footnote: This Constitution / By-Laws approved by Executive Board action the 5<sup>th</sup> Day of July 2017 and by unanimous vote of active members present and voting at the regular scheduled meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of September 2017.