



February 2021

Good Day Fellow Ruritans:

Hope that you are doing well and staying safe

As everyone knows 2020 was a very challenging year and created a lot of stress for our communities and Clubs. We know that as long as we focus on our Communities by asking, listening and providing the response and support that our communities need, we will prevail during these trying times.

Your National Board's Bylaws Committee has been asking, listening and trying to assist our Clubs by updating our Club bylaws to support what our Clubs are actually doing.

During our August 2020 National Board Meeting, the Bylaws Committee submitted to the National Board changes to our Club bylaws that would make Club operations easier. Below are the updated bylaws articles.

- **ARTICLE VII, Meetings**

- **Section A.** This club shall hold at least one meeting each month by any legal method. The time and place to be designated by the club Board of Directors. Special meetings may be called when considered necessary by the club Board of Directors.
- **Section D.** Recommended length of club meetings should be sufficient to conduct club business and a meal may be served at the discretion of the club.

- **Reason for Change:** *This change focused on two areas 1) how the club holds their meetings and 2) meals for the meetings could be decided by the club.*

During our January 2021 National Board Meeting, the Bylaws Committee submitted to the National Board changes to our Club bylaws that would make club operations easier. Below are the updated bylaws articles.

- **ARTICLE V, Section B At Large Status**

- Removed this section from the bylaws and reference to at-large membership in the club bylaws. Reclassify at-large status to Associate Members

- **Reason for Change:** *The reason for this change was because if you look at the definition of both, they were basically the same.*

- **ARTICLE XV Auditing of Accounts, Section A**
 - The President shall appoint an Auditing Committee who shall have the books and accounts of the secretary and treasurer audited annually utilizing the approved Ruritan National Club Audit Guidelines. The secretary and treasurer shall submit their books to this committee for auditing at any time as directed by the club Board of Directors. At the completion of the audit, the audit committee will report findings to the club
 - **Reason for Change:** *The change here was to help reduce the club's exposure to fraud and to clarify the appointment of the audit committee.*

- **ARTICLE VIII Duration of Club Membership Section C**
 - Removal of this section from the club bylaws
 - **Reason for Change:** *The reason for this is that it neither provides benefit to the member or to the club nor are there any ramifications to the member or club.*

- **ARTICLE VI. Fees and Dues Section B**
 - Ruritan dues are determined by the Ruritan National Board of Directors with approval of the delegates to the Ruritan National Convention and shall be paid to the treasurer of Ruritan National each quarter by this club for all active, associate, and honorary members, as well as for members granted leave of absence status, who are on the rolls of the club at the close of the meetings in January, April, July, and October. A one-time fee for Ruritan Forever members is established by the Ruritan National Board of Directors
 - **Reason for Change:** *The reason for this change was to align the bylaws with the quarterly billing of Associate members which is the established practice.*

- **ARTICLE X. Officers and Directors Sections A and B**
 - **Section A.** The officers of this club shall include the president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer with combinations of, or additional officers, as necessary.
 - **Section B.** The Board of Directors of this club should be composed of the president, vice president(s), secretary(s), treasurer(s), the immediate past president, and a minimum of three (3) elected directors. The president shall serve as chairperson.
 - **Reason for Change:** *To give the clubs flexibility in the officers' positions by allowing the combination of officer positions or includes optional second officers.*

In closing, your National Bylaws Committee is here to assist you and your Club with any bylaw(s) related issues. Feel free to contact us when you see things that need to be changed or just have questions.

Take care and have a safe 2021 Ruritan Year

National Bylaws Committee