

THE ERIE STAMP CLUB
APS Chapter #1280
BY-LAWS

Revised 1987
Amended 2011

ARTICLE I - PREAMBLE - PURPOSE

Experience having shown that knowledge can more readily be acquired by a combination of efforts than individually, we have agreed to form a club to be known as THE ERIE STAMP CLUB, hereafter referred to as "Club," and for its better government do hereby establish **these** By-Laws. The **purpose** of this organization is to foster, develop, and otherwise enhance the art of collecting, displaying, and exchanging philatelic materials among its members.

ARTICLE II - MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

- A. Membership in this Club is open to all persons interested in philately, subject to the rules and regulations provided herein.
- B. Members shall be of two groups: Adult and Junior.
 - 1. Adult members shall be 18 years of age or older, shall have the right to vote **and hold office**.
 - 2. Junior members shall be under the age of 18. may participate in all Club services and functions, **and shall not vote or hold office**.
- C. A family membership shall be made available to all interested persons of the same household. The rate of dues assessed shall be that the first member shall pay his/her full established dues rate while the remaining member(s) shall be assessed at a rate of one-half of the normal established rate for their respective age group as defined **above**.
- D. Honorary membership may be awarded to an individual in recognition of outstanding service to the Club, but such members shall be considered a non-voting member unless otherwise provided.
- E. The fiscal year of this organization shall be from January 1st to December 31st of each year.
- F. Club dues shall be set by a majority vote of the membership, payable with an application for membership. Dues become payable the first of January of each year.
- G. Only members in good standing with paid dues shall have the power to vote on Club matters **and hold office**.
- H. Members failing to pay the Club dues after a three-month period shall be dropped from the membership rolls **and losing all privileges provided they are notified in writing of their arrears during that three-month period**.
- I. Members found guilty of fraud, dishonesty or conduct unbecoming a member, may be suspended for a definite period of time, thereby losing rights and privileges of membership; Or, he/she may be expelled. The laws of the American Philatelic Society pertaining to the subject shall be the prevailing guide in such matters.

ARTICLE III - OFFICERS AND DUTIES

- A. Elective officers shall be: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Auction Director. Elective officers shall serve for a period of **two years**, or until their respective successors have been elected, as provided under Article IV
- B. The President has general supervisory powers over all matters concerning the Club. **The President** shall be the ex-officio member of all committees, will make all appointments necessary, and shall otherwise perform all duties delegated to him/**her** by the By-Laws or otherwise placed in his/**her** hands by the membership at a duly called meeting. **The President** shall appoint members to committees as he/**she** or the Club **deems** necessary.

- C. The duties of the Vice-President shall be to assist the President in the conduct of the Club. In the absence of the President at any meeting, the Vice-President shall act as President. In the event of death, disability, resignation or removal from of the President, **the Vice-President** shall assume the presidency until the next election. **The Vice-President** shall also **plan and acquire the programs and activities of the Club.**
- D. The duties of the Secretary shall be to record and keep for permanent record an accounting of the proceedings of all meetings, any official **documents**, and Club correspondence. **The Secretary** shall maintain a complete and updated membership listing and issue all membership cards.
- E. The duties of the Treasurer shall be to take charge of all monies, properties, and securities of the Club. **The Treasurer** shall collect all dues, make periodic reports of financial standings to the Club **and maintain written records**, deposit all dues and other receipts of the Club in a bank, **and** pay all bills and other obligations against the Club upon authorization of at least one other officer.
- F. The duties of the Auction Director shall be to receive all Club auction lots, organize all auction materials, maintain a record of same for each auction, **and** be the auctioneer at all auctions held by the Club.
- G. No officer shall receive compensation for any service in the performance of the duties of his/**her** office, except for reimbursement for any **documented** administrative expenses.

ARTICLE IV - ELECTIONS

- A. The election of officers shall take place at the last meeting of the year.
- B. Sixty (60) days prior to the election, the President shall appoint a nominating committee whose duty it shall be to canvass the membership **and prepare** a proposed slate of officers.
- C. Thirty (3) days prior to the election, the nominating committee shall announce the proposed slate of officers to a meeting of the Club.
- D. Nominations can be made **and seconded** from the floor, or by petition signed by five (5) Club members at least thirty (30) days prior to the election. Consent of the nominee is required prior to **the** nomination.
- E. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to prepare the ballots, listing **the** candidates for each office in alphabetical order.

ARTICLE V - MEETINGS

- A. Meetings shall be held on the second and fourth Thursday of each month **at a time and location** unless otherwise decided **at a scheduled meeting of the Club.**
- B. Special meetings may be initiated by the President or upon request of a majority of members present at any meeting.
- C. Suggested agenda of meetings:
 1. Call to order and welcome guests.
 2. Reading of announcements.
 3. Reading of the minutes of the last meeting.
 4. Treasurer's report and approval.
 5. Committee reports.
 6. Old business.
 7. New business.
 8. Adjournment.
 9. Program or activity.
- D. **Any business conducted at Club meetings not covered by these By-Laws shall follow the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, revised.**

ARTICLE VI - COMMITTEES

Subject to the approval of the membership, the President shall appoint **any** committee needed to carry out specific temporary or long term functions of the Club.

ARTICLE VII - AMENDMENTS

- A. These By-Laws may be amended by a majority vote of members in good standing at any regularly scheduled meeting of the Club.
- B. **Every five (5) years, the President shall appoint an ad hoc By-Laws committee to review these By-Laws. If any member wishes to propose amendment(s), said amendments must be submitted in writing to the President.**
- C. A proposed amendment(s) shall be read before a meeting of the Club as a first reading. They shall then be prepared, either printed or otherwise inscribed, and distributed to the entire membership by mail and shall be discussed at the next Club meeting.
- D. A second reading of the proposed amendment(s) shall be made at the next Club meeting, if the entire membership has had the opportunity to receive the **printed amendment(s)**. If a majority of the persons attending this meeting are members in good standing and absentee members have expressed a preference in writing, the **Club** at this second **reading** can vote acceptance or rejection of the proposed amendment(s).