

Spokane Secular Society Bylaws

Last updated 2011-12-23

Article I. Name

1. The name of this organization shall be the Spokane Secular Society.
2. The abbreviated name of this organization shall be S3.
3. The organization may, at its pleasure, by a vote of the membership body, change its name.

Article II. Use of Names and Marks

1. Use of the name, abbreviated name, logo(s), and other identifying marks of the organization shall be done only by approval from the Executive Council.
2. Unofficial logos and marks shall not be created, except by request or approval of the Executive Council.
3. Members shall not speak or act on behalf of the organization, except by request or approval of the Executive Council.

Article III. Purpose

1. The Spokane Secular Society is organized:
 - a. To create a strong secular community in the Inland Northwest, to which all secular organizations and individuals may belong;
 - b. To educate the general public on the fallacies and superstitions of religion and their detrimental effects on culture, politics, and society in general;
 - c. To encourage non-theists in the Inland Northwest to join local secular organizations;
 - d. To foster friendly relations with other secular groups in the Inland Northwest, around the country, and around the world to mutually further our non-theistic agendas.

Article IV. Membership

1. Membership in the Spokane Secular Society is open to anyone who:
 - a. Supports the principles of Church-State Separation,
 - b. Maintains a freethought perspective on the issues of the day,
 - c. Desires to educate – or support the education of – the general public on the meaning and validity of non-theism, and
 - d. Is thirteen years of age or older.
2. There are 2 categories of membership:
 - a. **Full Members** are allowed to attend all functions and may vote during all organization elections at which they are present.
 - b. **Casual Members** are allowed to attend all general and “open to the public” functions, but may be refused entry to certain “members only” functions. Casual Members will not be allowed to vote during any organization elections.
3. The annual dues amount shall be set by the Executive Council with approval from the membership.
4. Membership renewals are due in the member’s anniversary month and should be paid by the following month’s end to remain a Full Member in good standing. New memberships and all benefits afforded thereto shall become effective immediately upon receipt of dues by the Treasurer.
5. Membership dues are non-refundable.
6. To protect confidentiality, all information collected about members shall be maintained exclusively for use by the organization. Member information shall never be disclosed to any third party, except where required by law, where permission from the member(s) in question has been secured, or where voted upon by the membership. Certain member data may be made available to individual members on a need-to-know basis for organizational operations.
7. Any member found to be in violation of these bylaws shall be subject to an organization response as follows:

- a. The Executive Council shall investigate the incident and shall render a verdict and appropriate organizational response.
 - b. The affected member is allowed a single appeal to either the membership at large, or a jury of three (3) peers randomly selected by the Executive Council.
 - i. Jurors may be replaced at the request of the appellant if a conflict of interest is present.
 - c. In the event of an appeal, every attempt shall be made by the Executive Council to maintain the anonymity of the appellant through the use of written statements. Questions raised by deliberating members shall be asked and answered in writing via the Executive Council.
 - d. The decision reached by deliberating members shall affirm or override the original organization response and shall be final.
8. Members may resign their membership at any time for any reason by tendering their resignation, in writing, to the organization's Secretary.

Article V. The Executive Council

1. The organization shall be managed by an Executive Council consisting of four officers:
 - a. **President**
 - i. S/he shall preside at all membership meetings.
 - ii. S/he shall present, at each annual meeting of the organization, an annual report of the work of the organization.
 - iii. S/he shall appoint all committees.
 - iv. S/he shall see all books, reports and certificates required by law are properly kept or filed.
 - v. S/he shall be one of the officers who may sign the checks or drafts of the organization.
 - vi. S/he shall have such powers as may be reasonably construed as belonging to the chief executive of any organization.
 - vii. S/he shall, in the event of the absence or inability of the Vice-President, Secretary, or Treasurer to exercise

his/her office, appoint an interim Vice-President, Secretary, or Treasurer.

b. Vice-President

- i. S/he shall, in the event of the absence or inability of the President to exercise his/hers office, become acting president of the organization with all the rights, privileges and powers, as if s/he had been the duly elected president.
- ii. S/he shall, in the event of the absence or inability of the President, Secretary, or Treasurer to exercise his/her office, act as an interim President, Secretary, or Treasurer until such time as a replacement is appointed or elected.

c. Secretary

- i. S/he shall keep the minutes and records of the organization in appropriate books.
- ii. It shall be his/hers duty to file any certificate required by any statute, federal or state.
- iii. S/he shall give and serve all non-treasury notices to members of this organization.
- iv. S/he shall be the official custodian of the records of this organization.
- v. S/he shall attend to all non-treasury correspondence of the organization.
- vi. S/he shall exercise all duties incident to the offices of Secretary.

d. Treasurer

- i. S/he shall give and serve all treasury notices to members of this organization.
- ii. S/he must be one of the officers required to sign the checks and drafts of the organization.
- iii. S/he shall attend to all treasury correspondence of the organization.
- iv. S/he shall have the care and custody of all monies belonging to the organization and shall be solely responsible for such monies or securities of the organization.
- v. S/he shall render, at stated periods as the Executive

Council shall determine, a written account of the finances of the organization.

vi. S/he shall exercise all duties incident to the offices of Treasurer.

2. Officers shall be elected for a term of two (2) years.
3. All officers must be Full Members.
4. All officers are expected to attend the monthly business meetings. Any officer unable to attend a monthly business meeting shall contact no fewer than one other officer as far in advance of the meeting as possible.
5. Officers may resign their position in the Executive Council at any time for any reason by tendering their resignation, in writing, to the remaining officers.

Article VI. Election and Voting Procedures

1. Only Full Members are eligible to nominate candidates and place votes. Casual Members may attend meetings where voting takes place, but they cannot vote or make nominations.
2. Nominations for offices shall take place in even numbered years at the January meeting. Nominations shall be announced at the December meeting of odd numbered years.
3. Members must be present to nominate and/or second the nomination of a candidate. A list of nominees shall be posted on the website for all members to inspect prior to the first day of February.
4. In accordance with Article V Section 3, all candidates for office must be Full Members. Casual Members nominated for office must become Full Members in order to run for office.
5. At all meetings, except for the nomination and election of officers and directors, all votes shall be by voice. For nomination and election of officers, ballots shall be provided and there shall not appear any place on such ballot that might tend to indicate the person who cast such ballot.
6. Unless otherwise appointed by the President, the Secretary shall be the designated election coordinator.

7. The designated election coordinator shall send ballots for election of officers to Full Members via postal mail no less than one (1) week after nominations have been completed.
8. Elections for officers will be held at the February meeting. Eligible members unable to attend the February meeting may vote by mail. The designated election coordinator must receive all ballots prior to the call to order of the February meeting.
9. All unique nominations for officers shall be read aloud by the designated election coordinator and seconded by a Full Member. The nominee must then accept or reject the nomination.
10. Voting may be waived for any office that is uncontested.
11. Officers-elect will assume their official duties effective 1 March.
12. An officer may be expelled from office by a majority vote of the Executive Council, or by a majority vote by Full Members.
13. At any regular or special meeting, if a majority so requires, any question may be voted upon in the manner and style provided for election of officers and directors.
14. For all matters requiring a vote by the membership, the motion shall pass only upon an affirmative vote by no fewer than fifty-one (51) percent of Full Members present at the time the motion is put to vote.
15. There shall be no more than one vote per individual member per call to vote.

Article VII. Order of Business

1. Call to Order
2. Reading of the Minutes of the preceding meeting (optional)
3. Reports of Officers
4. Reports of Committees
5. Old and Unfinished Business
6. New Business
7. Announcements
8. Adjournments

Article VIII. Committees

1. All committees of this organization shall be appointed by President, and their term of office shall be for a period of one (1) year or less if sooner terminated by the action of the Executive Council.
2. Committee chairs may appoint a co-chair to act in his/her place.

Article IX. Amendments

1. These bylaws may be altered, amended, repealed or added to by an affirmative vote of not less than sixty-six (66) percent of the Full Members.