

Bylaws of the
HUMANISTS OF FLORIDA ASSOCIATION
DBA
FLORIDA HUMANIST ASSOCIATION ~~BYLAWS~~

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be FLORIDA HUMANIST ASSOCIATION, hereinafter FHA.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

FHA shall support the purposes and policies of the American Humanist Association. ~~It shall plan, organize and administer an association of Humanist groups in Florida.~~ It shall form working alliances with other Freethought groups in Florida. It shall support existing Humanist chapters within the state of Florida. It shall promote the ideas and values of Humanism and their application in both private and public affairs. It shall encourage free inquiry, teaching of the scientific method, rational problem solving, and democratic principles. It shall defend and preserve the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights, and the Florida Constitution.

~~ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP~~

~~SECTION 1. Membership in this association shall be open to all persons that pay dues, and adhere to the purpose of this organization.~~

~~SECTION 2. Regular, Student, Life (any person who pays a life membership as established by the Board of Directors, hereinafter BOARD), and Donor (any person who makes a significant contribution to this organization as established by the BOARD) are categories of membership. Joint memberships for each of the foregoing categories are available for two persons from the same household as established by the BOARD. Each person in a joint membership has the same voting rights as any individual membership.~~

~~SECTION 3. Terms and Conditions of Group Membership (any group which joins FHA) shall be defined by the BOARD.~~

~~SECTION 4. Dues and the payment thereof shall be set by the BOARD.~~

~~SECTION 5. Membership can be revoked at any time by a majority vote of the BOARD at which time the most recent membership dues are returned.~~

ARTICLE ~~IV~~III. BOARD

SECTION 1. The BOARD shall be composed of ~~the elected officers, the immediate past president, and up to nine (9) At-Large members elected by the membership~~ no less than five (5) and no more than seven (7) persons. Board members must be members of the ~~FHA~~ American Humanist Association. The BOARD shall manage the affairs of this organization ~~and report significant actions taken to the membership~~.

SECTION 2. The President shall appoint a successor to fill the unexpired term of any ~~Officer, At-Large Director, Advisory Director, or non-elected Director~~ Board Member, unless otherwise stated in these

bylaws, with the approval of the BOARD. In addition, the President, at his or her discretion, with approval of the Board, may appoint a ~~Director-Board Member~~ to fill any unoccupied board seat between elections.

SECTION 3. Board members are to serve two year staggered terms or until the board member's successor is elected.

~~Up to four At Large board members are elected in odd numbered years and up to five At Large members in even numbered years.~~

ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS

SECTION 1. FHA shall have the following officers: President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. ~~Officers must be members of the FHA.~~ All officers shall serve a staggered term of two years or until the officer's successor is elected. Elections for President and Secretary are held in odd-numbered years. Elections for Vice-President and Treasurer in even-numbered years.

SECTION 2. The officers shall be elected at the annual meeting of the BOARD by a majority ~~of members voting at the election~~vote.

SECTION 3. The newly elected officers shall assume office ~~immediately at 12:01 AM of the day following the report of the election results to the BOARD and the membership.~~

ARTICLE VI. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

SECTION 1. The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of FHA, shall chair all BOARD and membership meetings, and shall be an *ex officio* member of all committees ~~except the Nominating Committee.~~

SECTION 2. The Vice President shall assume the office of President on specific occasions when the President is unavailable or unable to carry out the duties of the office, and perform other duties as assigned by the President or the BOARD. The Vice President, approved by the BOARD, shall assume the office of the President if the President resigns or is removed from office according to the provisions of these bylaws.

SECTION 3. The Treasurer shall keep an accurate account of all funds and property of FHA, secure all funds in a financial institution approved by the BOARD, and disburse funds by check upon order of an authorized officer of FHA. The Treasurer shall submit an income and expense statement and a balance sheet to the BOARD at each Board meeting or as directed by the BOARD, and perform other duties as assigned by the President or the BOARD.

SECTION 4. The Secretary shall keep a permanent record of all proceedings and transactions of FHA, the BOARD and its committees. The Secretary shall submit minutes from the previous meeting at each Board meeting or as directed by the BOARD and shall perform other duties as assigned by the President or the BOARD.

ARTICLE VII. COMMITTEES

~~SECTION 1. The only Standing Committee shall be Nominating. Other c~~Committees may be appointed by the President, subject to approval by the BOARD, as the need arises.

~~SECTION 2. Once the date, place, and time of elections has been determined by the BOARD, a Nominating Committee of at least three (3) members shall be appointed by the President, subject to approval by the BOARD, whose duties shall be to: 1. Solicit candidates for the offices to be filled. 2. Compile a list of candidates eligible for election at least 30 days prior to the election. Nominations from the floor are acceptable. At-Large members of the BOARD may be on the Nominating Committee but no officers shall serve on the Nominating Committee. 3. Prepare a ballot listing all nominated candidates with a space for a write-in candidate for each office. 4. Publish through the Executive Director a notice of the availability of absentee ballots at least 30 days prior to the election. Ballots may be submitted electronically or via any means determined by the BOARD. 5. Collect all ballots. 6. Count all valid ballots and report election results to the BOARD or Executive Director.~~

ARTICLE VIII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

~~An Executive Director shall be appointed by the BOARD and supervised by the President. The duties and salary shall be established by the BOARD. Such duties shall include, but not be limited to the following: 1. Perform and/or supervise the administrative day-to-day functions of FHA, 2. Serve as an *ex officio* member of all committees except the Nominating Committee, and 3. Perform other duties as assigned by the President or the BOARD. The Executive Director shall regularly make reports to the Board. Removal of the Executive Director shall be by a majority vote of the BOARD.~~

ARTICLE ~~VII~~X. MEETINGS

~~SECTION 1. Membership meetings of HFA shall be established by the BOARD at a time, site and date determined by the BOARD. Ten percent of the total HFA voting membership in attendance shall constitute a quorum.~~

~~SECTION 2.1. The BOARD must meet at least ~~twice yearly~~once per quarter. A majority of BOARD members in attendance at a BOARD meeting shall constitute a quorum. The annual meeting will be the first meeting in each calendar year.~~

~~SECTION 3. The President may call a Special meeting of the membership, or any four members may petition the President for a Special meeting of the membership, which must be held within 45 days of receipt of petition. Ten percent of the total HFA voting membership in attendance shall constitute a quorum.~~

~~SECTION 4. Elections via paper mail, electronic mail, online voting or any other means determined by the BOARD, may be held with the approval of the BOARD. All candidate ballots, proposed bylaw changes and other issues to be voted upon shall be distributed electronically to the entire voting membership at least 30 days prior to the deadline for voting. The ballots will be collected and the results tabulated within two days after the voting deadline. The results will be posted on the FHA website within 7 days after the voting deadline and published in the next edition of the newsletter (should it exist). At least ten percent of the total voting membership must return ballots for the results to be valid.~~

SECTION ~~52~~. Meetings may be held telephonically, electronically, or via any other relevant technology approved by a majority vote of the Board.

ARTICLE ~~VIII~~. EXPULSION

Any ~~Officer or~~ Board member may be expelled by the majority vote of the Board for seriously obstructing the organization's business; refusing to participate in at least one committee of the BOARD; misappropriating FHA's name or funds, or acting in a way that discredits FHA, provided said member shall have been given a copy of the charges and that the charges have been submitted in writing (including email). Said member has 30 days to contest the charges at which time the BOARD will consider the defense and take another vote with the results from the second vote being final.

ARTICLE ~~XIV~~. FISCAL YEAR

The FISCAL YEAR of this organization shall be from January 1st to December 31st.

ARTICLE ~~XII~~. DISSOLUTION

This organization may be dissolved at any ~~Membership or Specialboard~~ meeting by a ~~two-thirds affirmative majority~~ vote of the ~~total FHA membership Board~~, provided that the resolution has been submitted in writing at least 90 days prior ~~and has received a four-fifths affirmative vote of the BOARD~~. After all liabilities incurred by this organization have been satisfied, any remaining assets shall be distributed to the American Humanist Association.

ARTICLE ~~XIII~~. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the most current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised* shall advise the FHA in all cases where they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order this organization may adopt.

ARTICLE ~~XI~~. AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended at any ~~regular Board~~ meeting, ~~at any duly called special meeting or by paper mail, electronic mail or online voting~~ by a majority vote ~~of the members voting~~, providing that the amendment has been submitted in writing (including electronic mail) to ~~the all Board~~ members at least 30 days prior to the meeting or voting deadline. Proposed amendments may be submitted in writing to the President or any Board member.