

Club Constitution

Revised 3-2024

Article I: Name

The name of the Club will be NEWCOMERS CLUB OF GREATER GREENVILLE, INC. (NCGG)

Article II: Mission

The mission of this Club is:

- to stimulate new friendships through shared activities
- to help newcomers to Greenville identify with their community
- to promote interest in cultural and service programs
- to undertake and promote charitable and humanitarian projects within our community
- to have fun

Article III: Membership

All new persons of Greater Greenville may join during their first two years of residency. To be a new resident requires a move of further than 35 miles from their former residence to the Peace Center, 300 S Main Street, Greenville, SC 29601, as determined by Google Maps. Membership is open to all persons and spouses/significant others residing in the same household regardless of race, creed, religion or gender.

Members may serve on the Board for a total of five years after which time they are no longer eligible to serve on the Board. The Board reserves the right to waive this requirement if unable to find a suitable candidate for a board position.

In order to contribute to the good of the organization, Members are strongly encouraged to serve on the Board, a committee or as an Activity Coordinator during their Membership.

A Member serving as an Activity Coordinator serves an unlimited term while serving at the pleasure of the Board.

Club Functions are open to all Members in good standing. A member who is in compliance with Bylaws, Constitution and Policies of the Club is considered to be in good standing.

The Board reserves the right to cancel a membership when a Member engages in disruptive or harassing behavior or is in violation of the Bylaws, Constitution or Policies of the Club. The process for membership cancellation will be written notification from the Board and a date by which to respond. The member shall be given the opportunity to be heard either orally or in writing. The Board will evaluate the response and render a decision. If the decision is to cancel the membership, it must be done by a majority vote of the Board.

Article IV: Dues and Financial Transactions

Any prospective member will have the privilege of attending two Club functions but must register for these functions through the Membership Chair. Dues become payable before a prospective member attends a third Club function.

Annual dues include a spouse/significant other residing in the same household.
One paid Club Membership entitles the member to full access to the Newcomers website.

Annual dues, as set by the Board, are payable no later than May 31 for the ensuing twelve months. Dues become delinquent after May 31. After June 15, Members in arrears will be dropped from Club Membership. Reinstatement may be made with payment of back dues during the first two years of Membership lapse. The Board will establish any late fees for delinquent dues.

A member joining between December 1 and April 30 will pay one-half the annual dues, which will cover dues through May 31 of that year. Anyone joining between April 30 and May 31 will be in pending status until June 1.

Dues are non-refundable. Note: Exception to be made if a non-eligible individual pays for membership online through Wild Apricot and must be refunded due to the ineligibility. The Wild Apricot fees charged to Newcomers will be withheld from the reimbursed amount.

In the event of an allowable cancellation for an Activity or Event that required prepayment, the Wild Apricot fees charged to Newcomers will be withheld from the reimbursed amount.

In the event of a returned check, the Treasurer will notify the appropriate member. The member must reimburse the Club for the outstanding balance plus any associated fees. Failure to comply will result in a terminated Membership.

Each Activity shall be self-supporting and the Club Treasury will not be used to remunerate any Activity.

Article V: Board Members

The Board may include the following positions:

- President
- Membership Chair
- Activities Chair
- Special Events Chair (2)
- Fundraising Chair/Philanthropy Chair
- Technology Chair
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Hospitality Chair (2)
- Newsletter Editor
- Past President

They will perform the duties as given in their job description and will hold office for one year. When filling an unexpired term or when a qualified successor is not found, the term limit may be waived at the discretion of the Board.

Article VI: Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, will govern the Club in all cases in which they are applicable and where they are not inconsistent with the Club's Bylaws.

Article VII: Revisions

The Bylaws, Constitution and Job Descriptions will be reviewed no more than once per fiscal year, but no less than every two fiscal years, by a committee appointed by the President and chaired by the Past President. Recommendations for changes will be presented to the Board for approval. Upon Board approval, proposed changes will be published to the General Membership and then voted upon at the following General Meeting or by electronic vote.

Bylaws

Article I: Election of Board Members

No later than the January Board Meeting, the President will present to the Board for approval, a Nominating Committee, chaired by the Past President and four other Members chosen from the Club Membership at large. Members of the Nominating Committee may not be on the upcoming Board, except in extenuating circumstances. The President will not serve on this Committee in any capacity. After the Nominating Committee is approved, the President will send out an electronic communication to the General Membership to announce the upcoming open Board positions. The President will encourage Members to contact the Nominating Committee with suggestions for potential Board Members. Self-nominations are welcome. Nominations from the General Membership will be accepted up to 15 days prior to the election.

The Nominating Committee will select at least one nominee for each office and shall determine the eligibility and willingness of each nominee to serve. Any nominee not selected **MUST** be notified and thanked for their interest prior to notification of the slate of nominees to the Board.

The Nominating Committee Chair will give written notification of the slate to the Board no later than the April Board Meeting. These nominations will be published to the General membership promptly thereafter. Voting will take place no later than the April General Meeting.

A plurality vote wins. The Chair of the Nominating Committee will announce winning candidates. New Board Members will be installed at the combined Board Meeting in May and their term officially begins June 1st.

If a vacancy in any Office occurs during the year, the Board will hold an emergency meeting to discuss options. If a vacancy in the office of the Past President occurs during the year, the President will appoint a prior President to complete the term.

Article II: Board

The Board typically consists of the President, Membership Chair, Activities Chair, Special Events Chair (2), Fundraising/Philanthropy Chair, Technology Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Hospitality Chair (2), Newsletter Editor and Past President.

The Board may conduct voting electronically when necessary. Any electronic vote will be included as an addendum to the Board Meeting minutes.

The governing body of the Club is the Board. The Board will meet monthly to coordinate the activities of the Club. All Board Members are expected to attend each Board Meeting, unless excused by the President. Each Board position has one vote.

A Club Member who wishes to have an item placed on the agenda for a meeting of the Board must submit a request for consideration, in writing, to the President, at least three days prior to the scheduled Meeting.

A Board Member may be removed for failure to fulfill Board obligations. This would be by majority vote by the Board. Prior to such vote, the Board member would receive written notification with the opportunity to provide a written response to be considered by the Board before voting commences.

Any expenditure that is projected to create an unfavorable variance of over \$1,000 in Net Expenses for the entire budget year must be published and voted on electronically.

The outgoing Board must leave a minimum balance of \$5,000 in the Club Treasury.

Article III: Standing Committees

Standing Committees may be appointed by the President and approved by the Board, as required.

Article IV: Responsibility

When advance payment is required for an event, any member who cancels after the reservation deadline remains obligated for payment unless replaced by another member.

In an effort to ensure the safety and enjoyment of our Club Members at all of our Club functions, each Club member who participates in a Club function does so at his/her own risk. Newcomers Club of Greater Greenville will not be held liable for any injuries or illnesses which occur in conjunction with Club functions. Each Club Member and guest expressly hold the Club harmless and shall indemnify same from all damages, claims and/or expenses, of any nature caused as a result of acts by said Club member and/or guest.

For the comfort of all members, no discussion/promotion of any political or religious views shall be allowed at Newcomer activities or events. No gambling or betting of any kind is allowed during Newcomers events or activities. Obnoxious or threatening behavior that negatively affects an activity or event is prohibited and may result in termination of membership should the Board receive excessive complaints from other members.

It is expected that all Club Members and their guests will act responsibly in their consumption of alcohol so as not to impact the wellbeing of or present a danger to other Members attending any event or activity. It is also incumbent on each Member to either assign a designated driver or make other transportation arrangements when needed.

Article V: General Meetings

General Meetings will be held a minimum of four times per year. No activity is to be scheduled to conflict with a General Meeting, Board meeting, Activities Showcase, Holiday, or Spring Events without Board approval.

A Member who wishes to have an item placed on the agenda for a General Meeting shall contact the President prior to the scheduled Meeting. Board Members are expected to attend each General Meeting. If unable to attend, the Member is required to contact the President and provide a written report if needed.

Article VI: Committees

The President may, with Board approval, form other committees and appoint chairpersons, when necessary, to direct the various functions of the Club in the fulfillment of its mission. The President will be an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.

Article VII: Method of Voting

The Board will notify the General Membership in advance whenever voting is necessary. Voting will take place through an electronic communication with the members in which a majority of those voting will determine the outcome.

Article VIII: Club Function Policies

A prospective Member is welcome to attend two club functions before joining the Club by registering through the Membership Chair.

Our guest policy allows Members to bring guest(s) to Special Events on a space available basis. However, attendance at Activities is limited to Members.

No part of the net earnings of the Club shall inure to the benefit of or be distributed to its Members, trustees, Board Members, or other private persons, except that the Club shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes of this organization.

No part of the activities of the Club shall be used for propaganda or attempt to influence legislation (including the publishing or distributing of statements) or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

Announcement of non-Newcomer functions may be displayed on the Club whiteboard at Club functions as well as via e-mail with prior approval by the President.

The Directory is not to be used for business direct mail or e-mail.

Members shall not wear nametags, or logos displaying business or any other group affiliations at any Club functions.

Members shall not approach other Members, or contact Members by phone, mail, e-mail, the Message Board or Facebook page in order to solicit business or promote political causes or personal affiliations.

If the Greenville County schools are closed due to weather, all Newcomer club functions are cancelled or may be held through an on-line host site (such as Zoom, Trickster, etc.). If Greenville County Schools are delayed two hours due to weather, then all Newcomer Club functions beginning at 10 am or later will be held as scheduled. Under extenuating

circumstances, if weather conditions have changed from the weather forecast and do not pose a threat to Members, the Board, by a majority vote, may decide to allow a Special Event to continue. During non-school days, weekends, and summers, Activity Coordinators will use their best judgement in deciding to continue with or cancel an Activity, keeping the safety of Members paramount.

Newcomers is designated a 501 (C) (4) organization. However, notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution, the Club shall not conduct any other activities not permitted to be carried on by an association exempt from Federal Income Tax under Section 501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (as amended to date), or by an association, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170 (C) (2) of the Internal Revenue code of 1954 (as amended to date).

Article IX: Bylaw Exceptions in Emergency Situations

In the event of an emergency situation such as a pandemic or other crisis that affects the normal operation of the Club, the Board may suspend normal Bylaws and put in place short-term bylaws to keep the Club operating during the crisis. This may include the appointment of a temporary Executive Committee with a broad delegation of authority to take swift action to address any problems that arise during the emergency situation and handle any duties needed to keep the Club running. Following the emergency, the Club will return to the standard bylaws.

Article X: Communication

Communication with the Membership may include, but is not limited to:

- Monthly Newsletter
- Verbal announcements at General Meetings
- Emails
- Telephone calls
- Facebook

Electronic messages sent by the Technology Chair must be approved by the President or a designee from the Board. Electronic messages are an extension of the Newsletter and are for Club business only.

Article XI: Record Storage

All financial records and board minutes shall be kept for seven (7) years in accordance with the IRS guidelines. They may be kept electronically or in paper form. All other records should be kept for three (3) years.

Article XII: Distribution of Assets upon Dissolution

Upon dissolution of the Club, the Board shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all liabilities of the Club, dispose of all assets of the Club exclusively for the purpose of the Club in such manner or to such organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization, or organizations, under Section 501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (as amended to date), as the Board shall determine. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Courts of Common Pleas of Greenville County, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or

organizations as said court shall determine which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

Article XIII: Job Descriptions of Board Members

The Job Descriptions that follow are brief summaries of the main duties of each position. Detailed Job Descriptions are listed on the website and given to each Board Member at the beginning of their term. They are responsible for following the procedures in those descriptions and any other relevant duties assigned by the President. Board Members are required to present to the President and Treasurer for approval any financial obligations requiring a contract or a deposit.

President

- Administers the day-to-day operation of the Club
- Appoints Past President or other board member to conduct meetings in his or her absence
- Presides over Board and General Meetings
- Performs such other duties as may be assigned to the position by the Board or which usually pertains to the office
- Is an ex-officio Member of all Committees except the Nominating Committee
- Appoints a qualified individual to review the Treasurer's books to be completed by June 30
- Selects Chairpersons for the Standing Committees
- Appoints the Nominating and Bylaws/Constitution Committees
- Proofreads monthly newsletter
- Basic computer skills required

Membership Chair

- Manages all aspects of the new member process, including
 - Greeting and introducing prospective and new members at the monthly Coffee; following up with an email to all prospective members
 - Promptly reviewing each new member application on the website and accepting/rejecting it and then emailing every new member with pertinent welcoming information
- Plans and coordinates two brunch-type events for the members who have joined in the past six months
- Recruits team to staff membership table at Activities Showcase (typically held in September) to allow the efficient check-in of new and prospective members
- Provides newsletter editor with members joining in the past month; this task requires familiarity with Word and Excel
- Works with Technology to ensure that the annual membership renewal process happens on a timely basis

Activities Chair

- Oversees activity groups and appoints Members in good standing as coordinators of each group. Each activity shall be self-supporting and the Club Treasury will not be used to remunerate any activity.

- Acts as a facilitator in receiving and resolving any problems occurring in Club activities and brings to the board, when appropriate
- Holds an orientation meeting for Activity Coordinators prior to Activities Showcase in September.
- Reports to the Board monthly on the current status of activity groups
- Collects information about activities and ensures that the coordinators send their Newsletter article each month to the Newsletter Editor
- Instructs Activity Coordinators to clear scheduling of any proposed activities through her/him before planning and/or publicizing an activity
- Presents to the Board for approval all new activities
- Writes an article for the monthly Newsletter
- Proofreads monthly newsletter
- Basic to moderate computer skills required, including Word

Special Events Chair(s)

- Plans and executes a variety of social events throughout the year, including the Holiday and Spring Events and the Activities Showcase
- Sets up and manages the Events Registration portion of the Club website
- Assists and coordinates with Members who want to plan a non-recurring activity
- Writes an article for the monthly Newsletter
- Moderate to strong computer skills required

Fundraising Chair

- If requested by the Board, plans fundraising projects and events for the year to enable the Club to carry out philanthropic projects and to cover general expenses of the Club
- Promotes all fundraising projects such as Fall for Greenville and others, as needed
- Oversees 50/50 raffles at General Meetings and Club Events.
- Coordinates collection and distribution of donations
- If requested by the Board, the Fundraising Chair will appoint a committee to investigate appropriate charities for the following year. Three charities are to be presented to the Board for review and selection.
- Writes an article for the monthly Newsletter
- Basic computer skills required, including Word

Technology Chair

- Manages membership software
- Maintains and updates website and other system modules
- E-mails monthly Newsletter to Members
- Sends all eBlasts to membership
- Advanced knowledge of technology including data base management required

Treasurer

- Leads development of the annual operating budget for the coming year.
 - Submits the proposed budget to the Board for approval no later than the July Board Meeting

- Publishes it to the General Membership
- Presents it to the General Membership for a vote electronically
- Alerts the President of any proposed expenditure in a Board Member's budget that may create an unfavorable variance of over \$1000 in Net Expenses during a budget year.
- Receives and deposits Club income
- Pays bills upon written request, balances monthly statements, records transactions and is available to reimburse Members
- Presents a Treasurer's Report at Board Meetings
- Submits other financial reports including a monthly summary report, as required
- Oversees required state and federal tax return preparations
- Format used by the Treasurer should not be changed without Board approval
- Financial/accounting background preferred, familiarity with budget development and related computer skills, such as Excel

Secretary

- Records minutes at Board Meetings and General Meetings where official business is conducted
- Provides minutes to Board Members for corrections within 10 days
- Gives corrected minutes to the Board prior to the next Board Meeting
- Provides the Technology Chair with corrected minutes for filing in the online archives
- Writes pertinent correspondence and thank-you notes regarding Club business
- As appropriate given the circumstances, sends cards to Members in case of illness or death in the immediate family when notified
- Basic computer skills required

Hospitality

- Assists President as necessary in finding locations and making arrangements for the General Meetings
- Coordinates refreshments for the General Meetings
- Arranges Member lunch at a restaurant following General Meetings unless otherwise directed by the Board
- If necessary, coordinates with the Membership Chair for New Member Events
- Submits an article for the monthly Newsletter announcing upcoming Coffees
- Basic computer skills required

Newsletter Editor

- Compiles Board Member and Activity Chairs' monthly inputs, incorporates/edits the Newsletter and sends to President, Activity Chairs and other designated Board Members for proofing
- Once proofed and any updates are made, sends an electronic copy of the Newsletter to the Technology Chair and Secretary prior to the 21st of each month
- Strong computer skills required, e.g. MS Word, MS PowerPoint or other equivalent software application

Past President

- Serves as advisor to the President
- Acts in the absence of the President at General and Board Meetings
- Acts as Club Parliamentarian
- Advises the Board with regard to Robert's Rules of Order
- Chairs a committee to review the Constitution, Bylaws and Job Descriptions no more than once a year but no less than every two years. Revisions will be voted on by the General Membership
- Chairs the Nominating Committee