



NORTH EAST LIVE STEAMERS

CONSTITUTION

NAME - NORTH EAST LIVE STEAMERS, INC.

GOALS

A. To be a Club whose members form an outdoor model railroading 'family' that convenes regularly to run "ride-on sized" model railroad equipment at members private, outdoor 'backyard railroads' in the 2-1/2" through 7-1/2" gauge sizes. In so doing, to provide interesting and varied track experiences and to provide recreational, social, and educational benefits that come with operating 'ride-on sized' model railroad equipment among members of the "family" who are building, have built, and who operate such equipment.

B. To promote a friendly and cooperative atmosphere for the membership's enjoyment of the live steam hobby.

MEMBERS

A. **REGULAR:** A Regular Member must possess an operating, ride-on sized locomotive (steam, gasoline, or electric), or a passenger carrying riding car or other rolling stock, in the 2-1/2" through 7-1/2" gauges, or **actively** have such under construction. Or, he or she must have a private outdoor, 'backyard railroad' in the 2-1/2" through 7-1/2" gauge size that he or she makes available to the club for 'running meets'. A regular member is entitled to one vote.

B. **HONORARY:** An Honorary Member must have been a Regular Member for at least 10 consecutive years, and must be felt by a majority of the regular membership present at a business meeting to be deserving of this position of "Honorary". An Honorary Member may attend all Club meets/meetings/events, need not pay annual dues, and except for holding office, shall be entitled to all benefits of the Club, including having one vote.

C. **SPARE BOARD:** A Spare Board member either can not be placed in the Regular membership, or, is not able to meet the requirements for Regular membership, and, the person's association with the club is desired by the Regular membership. A Spare Board member has no vote.

OFFICERS

A. The officers of this organization shall consist of a president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer.

I. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

a. PRESIDENT:

1. To preside over all meetings.
2. To conduct the business affairs of the organization.
3. To appoint committees.
4. To authorize all payment of debts incurred by the club.

b. VICE-PRESIDENT:

1. To preside over meetings in the absence of the president.
2. To supervise appointed committees.
3. To assist the president as necessary.

c. SECRETARY:

1. To attend to recording the meetings.
2. To handle all club correspondence.
3. To assist the president as necessary.

d. TREASURER:

1. To collect all dues and moneys for the club and to pay all debts as authorized.
2. To record all financial transactions in a permanent record, and make a report after the completion of each calendar year.
3. To assist the president as necessary.

B. The above named officers shall serve for a period of two (2) years, shall be nominated by membership, and shall be elected by a majority vote at the fall-business meeting. Each office will be voted upon in alternate years, causing the terms to overlap, thus insuring that an experienced person will always be in office. Terms of President/Treasurer and Vice-President/Secretary will run concurrently.

C. Only Regular members in good standing are eligible for office.

D. Necessary committees shall be formed by a majority vote of those present at the meeting. The members of the committee are to be appointed by the president.

E. Any vacancy in office, which might occur after the election, may be filled at any scheduled meeting/meet of the club.

MEETINGS

A. There will be at least one meeting/meet of the club per month unless deemed otherwise by unanimous vote, to consist of operating meets during good weather and social meetings during the winter months. Date, place and time of each meeting to be decided by the membership.

B. There shall be two (2) business meetings of the club during the year. These will be combined with a social meeting, one in the Spring and one in the Fall.

BY-LAWS

- A. To become a Regular member, any applicant may apply if at least 3 regular members in good standing have recommended him for membership, with no "get-to-know-you" requirement. If he is relatively unknown, or has not received at least 3 member recommendations, he must attend four (4) "get-to-know-you" meets before applying. Once these requirements are met, the application shall be discussed and voted on at the next business meeting by the Regular members. A two-thirds majority is necessary for acceptance. The applicant shall be absent from this meeting and will be notified of the outcome by a club officer
- B. There is NO limit on the number of members allowed on the roster. Formerly it had been thirty(30).
- C. Regular Members should be actively pursuing the goals of the organization.
- D. A member may invite a friend to a meet/meeting provided he obtains the permission of the host in advance. The sponsor member must be present and watchful at the meet/meeting for the duration of the guest's visit. The member is responsible for insuring the guest adheres to the club operating safety rules and otherwise behaves appropriately while visiting.
- E. Members who are in the Armed Services, or attending college, and unable to meet club requirements are placed on "Inactive Status" until able to return on a steady basis. They will be exempt from paying dues while inactive.
- F. Members will be issued a Membership Card each year, upon receipt of current dues.
- G. Membership dues will be determined yearly at the fall business meeting for the forthcoming year.
- H. Dues are payable from January 1st each year, and must be paid in full no later than the first running meet. If dues are delinquent a notice shall be sent informing the individual to pay or be removed from the roster.
- I. A Spare Board member who wishes to operate their own equipment at regularly scheduled club meets, shall be required to pay dues at the Regular member rate.
- J. The North East Live Steamers maintains certain prescribed safety rules to which all meet attendants must adhere.
- K. Special Friends. "Special Friends" are those who make significant contributions to the N.E.L.S. such as hosting steam meets, and whose continued association with the club is desired by the regular membership, but due to distance and other considerations are not able to meet attendance requirements "
- L. These By-Laws may be amended, appended, or suspended at any business meeting by a majority vote of those present, provided that at least fifty (50) percent of the Regular members are in attendance.

REV. 01/05/2007