

Newcomers Club of New Bern BY-LAWS

ARTICLE 1: NAME

The name of the club is NEWCOMERS CLUB OF NEW BERN, referred to as the Club, a non-profit social organization.

ARTICLE 2: OBJECTIVE

The objective of the Club is to help newcomers integrate into our community by providing opportunities to meet other newcomers by engaging in its activities. By learning about the community's local and regional resources and history, newcomers can identify ways of contributing to its life; vitality; and organizations, both charitable and civic. The Newcomers Club of New Bern does not serve as a forum for Club members or non-members to promote products or services, or to express religious or political views.

ARTICLE 3: MEETINGS

Regular meetings of the Club will be held monthly from September through May, with the exception of December, unless the Board chooses otherwise and issues notice to the membership.

ARTICLE 4: MEMBERSHIP

A. Eligibility. Any adult living in the New Bern area for one year or less will be eligible for membership and will become a member upon completion of the Club's application form and payment of annual dues. Membership may be renewed up to three times depending upon the month joined. Requests for exceptions will be voted upon by the Board.

B. Dues. The Board will set annual dues.

ARTICLE 5: FISCAL YEAR AND AUDIT

The fiscal year of the Club commences on July 1 and closes on June 30. An annual internal audit of the club's financial records will be performed by a member other than the Treasurer and will be completed no later than 30 days after the end of the fiscal year, with written report to the Board at the September Board meeting.

ARTICLE 6: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors (Board) will consist of elected officers, elected directors, and an advisor as follows: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Activities Director, Membership Director, Newsletter Director, and Social Director. A representative of Neighbors of New Bern will serve as Advisor to the Board. The Advisor does not pay dues, nor has any of the obligations of membership, but will be considered an honorary member with voting privileges. Each position of the Board will have one vote. A majority of the Board will constitute a quorum for Board meetings. The Board has authority over all affairs and operations of the Club.

ARTICLE 7: NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

- A. Elections. Board members, with the exception of the Advisor, are elected for one-year terms. A Board member may serve for one additional year, if elected, not to exceed the three-year membership limit. The President will appoint a Chairperson and two members of a Nominating Committee who will solicit and select from the membership a list of candidates for elected Board positions. The Chair of the Nominating Committee will present the list to the Board at its March meeting and, with Board approval, will publish the list. At the April meeting the President will announce the list and solicit any new nominations from the floor. The general membership will then vote on the candidates. The candidates receiving a majority of votes of the members present will be declared elected. New Board members are installed at the May membership meeting.
- B. Vacancy. In the event of a vacancy in an elected position (with the exception of the President, which is automatically filled by the Vice-President), the Nominating Committee will nominate, and the Board will appoint, a member to serve until the next election.

ARTICLE 8: AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS

These By-laws may be amended at any regular meeting of the Club by a majority of those present provided that previous notice of the amendment was given to the members by the Board at least six days in advance.

Revised: October 7, 2012

Approved by the Board: October 10, 2012

POLICIES

Policy #1 - Length of Membership (established April 3, 2013)

1. The purpose of this policy is to establish the length of membership in the club. Generally, membership has been limited to three years of participation in the club. The club's "year" runs from July 1st of one year to June 30th of the next year.
2. Membership will end in June of the third year after a member joins, regardless of the month the newcomer joined. As an example, a member who joins in May of 2013 will be a member until June 2016. Likewise, a member joining in January 2013 will have their membership expire in June 2016.
3. Membership in good standing requires renewal of membership and payment of dues.

Policy #2 – Participation in Newcomer Activity Groups & Events (Established November of 2014)

1. Participation in any Newcomer Activity Groups or Newcomer event requires the participant to be a member in good standing with the Newcomers Club. Any member who has not renewed or paid their Newcomers membership dues for the current membership year by October 31st, will not be considered a member in good standing and will not be eligible to participate in any Newcomer activity or events.
2. Activity leaders are responsible for verifying that participants in the activities they lead are members in good standing.