

# SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE DEMOCRATS



## BYLAWS

May 2011

Adopted: April 23, 2007  
Bylaws Chairmen: Yvette Van Hise, Joanne Bebel  
Officers: Pat Carr, Lynlee Thorne, Sue Joyce, Linda Little  
Steering Committee: Lee Bender, Sue Bender, Ginny Brock, Bob  
Ingram, Elaine Ingram, Millie Kantner, Dale Quinn

Revised: May 16, 2011  
Bylaws Chairman: Yvette Van Hise  
Officers: Lou Gregory, Pat Carr, Mike Carr, Joanne Bebel  
Steering Committee: Cindy Decker, Jim Bennett, Alma Ivey Mathis,  
Sylvia Hutto, Penne Scott

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# **Smith Mountain Lake Democrats**

## **Bylaws**

### **ARTICLE I            NAME**

The name of this organization shall be Smith Mountain Lake Democrats (Lake Democrats). The organization was founded in March 2006.

### **ARTICLE II            PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Smith Mountain Lake Democrats is to encourage participation in the political process in support of candidates and issues congruent with Democratic ideals, to educate our members and the community on local, state, and national issues, and to highlight community issues that will have an effect on quality of life of Smith Mountain Lake and those communities surrounding the lake.

### **ARTICLE III           MEMBERSHIP**

- Section 1      Active membership in the Smith Mountain Lake Democrats shall be open to all persons of voting age regardless of race, religion, sex, sexual orientation and gender identity
- a) who reside in the Virginia counties of Bedford, Franklin, or Pittsylvania;
  - b) who pay dues and assessments of the organization.
- Section 2      Auxiliary membership is open to all persons who share the concerns and goals of the Lake Democrats regardless of age, county of residence or political party affiliation.
- Section 3      Rights of Members:
- a) Active members shall have the right to vote on organization issues, hold office in the Lake Democrats, and participate in all organization projects and activities.
  - b) Auxiliary members who pay dues shall have all the rights of active members except the right to hold office in the organization.
- Section 4:      Membership in another Democratic club or organization shall not preclude a person from membership in the Lake Democrats.

### **ARTICLE IV           DUES**

- Section 1      Annual dues shall be due and payable at the May meeting.
- Section 2      Dues paid to another Democratic club or organization shall not be sufficient to keep a person active in the Smith Mountain Lake Democrats.
- Section 3      The fiscal year runs from June 1<sup>st</sup> of one calendar year to May 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year.

### **ARTICLE V            OFFICERS**

- Section 1      The officers of the Lake Democrats shall be President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

- Section 2 Officers shall serve a term of two years, but may be eligible for election for a consecutive term.
- Section 3 After serving consecutive terms, a member must allow a hiatus of one biennium before again running for the same office.
- Section 4 Officers shall take office at the first meeting of the organization following the end of a fiscal year.
- Section 5 Officers shall receive no compensation but shall be reimbursed for approved expenses.
- Section 6 Additional Positions: The President may appoint a parliamentarian, an historian, a web site editor and/or such other positions as are deemed necessary for the efficient operation of the organization.
- Section 7 The Immediate Past President shall remain a member of the Steering Committee for one year following his/her term in office.
- Section 8 In the event any officer shall be unable to complete the term of his or her office, the Steering Committee shall appoint a successor who shall serve until the end of that term.

**ARTICLE VI STEERING COMMITTEE**

- Section 1 The voting members of the Steering Committee shall consist of the elected officers, standing committee chairs or their designees, a liaison to the Bedford County Democratic Committee, a liaison to the Franklin County Democratic Committee, a liaison to the Pittsylvania County Democratic Committee and up to two At-Large Members.
- Section 2 The steering committee may select up to two At-Large Members.
  - a) The At-Large Member(s) of the Steering Committee will serve a term of no less than six months nor more than two years with the length of term being determined by the Steering Committee. The term will in no case overlap the two-year term of office of the elected officers.
  - b) The At-Large Member(s) of the Steering Committee will be voting members of the Steering Committee, with all the rights and privileges so designated.
- Section 3 Past officers, the historian, parliamentarian and other members of the Lake Democrats are invited to attend Steering Committee meetings but shall not be voting members.
- Section 4 The Steering Committee shall determine the general policy of the organization.
- Section 5 The Steering Committee shall meet monthly or on the call of the President. Five voting members shall constitute a quorum.

**ARTICLE VII COMMITTEES**

- Section 1 The following shall be standing committees: Issues, Fundraising and Event Planning, Legislation Watch, Political Outreach.
- Section 2 Duties of the committees shall include but not be limited to
  - a) Issues: Educate the organization and community about issues

- congruent with Democratic ideals.
- b) Fundraising and Event Planning: Coordinate fundraising efforts for various candidates and for the organization, and organize Lake Democrats' events.
- c) Legislation Watch: Monitor and report on local, state and federal legislation.
- d) Political Outreach: Establish and maintain a positive image for the Lake Democrats to increase the organization's visibility, membership and influence in the lake community and to raise the level of active participation in the political process.

Section 3 Additional Committees: The President and the Steering Committee may designate additional committees as needed for the functioning of the organization.

Section 4 Nominating Committee:

- a) Sixty days before the May business meeting of odd numbered years, the Steering Committee shall appoint a Nominating Committee.
- b) The Nominating Committee shall prepare a slate of candidates for the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

**ARTICLE VIII ELECTIONS**

Section 1 Elections of officers shall take place in May of odd numbered years.

Section 2 The Nominating Committee shall present the slate of officers.

Section 3 Additional nominations may be made from the floor.

Section 4 Votes shall be cast and nominees receiving a majority of the votes cast shall be elected. Officers shall take office in June following their election.

**ARTICLE IX MEETINGS**

Section 1 General Meetings: The organization shall meet each month at a time and place designated by the Steering Committee.

Section 2 Steering Committee Meetings: The Steering Committee shall meet regularly at a time and place designated by the President.

Section 3 Special Meetings: Special meetings may be called by the President, the Steering Committee or by the membership at the written request of five members.

**ARTICLE X PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall govern the organization in all cases in which they are applicable and consistent with the Bylaws of the Smith Mountain Lake Democrats.

## **ARTICLE XI**

### **AMENDING THE BYLAWS**

These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership present and voting at any regular business meeting provided that a copy of the proposed amendment(s) shall have been presented to the Steering Committee for review. Upon approval by the Steering Committee, a copy of the proposed amendment shall be made available to all voting members at least 30 days before the meeting at which they will be considered for adoption.