

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 pay dues and assessments of the Club.
- b) Active Members under the age of 21 agree to not consume, buy, possess or sell alcohol while attending Club Functions.

Section 2 Auxiliary membership is open to high school and college students who are not yet of voting age and share the concerns and goals of the Lake Democrats regardless of county of residence.

- a) Parent(s) or Legal Guardian, whichever is applicable, must grant signed consent for a student to join SML Democrats since the student would be under the legal age of 18.
- b) Auxiliary Members agree to not consume, buy, possess, or sell alcohol while attending Club functions.

Section 3 Rights of Active and Auxiliary Members:

- a) Active members, who remain current with dues and assessments, 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 remain current with the dues and assessments, shall have all the rights of active members except the right to hold office in the organization.

Section 4: Emeritus Members “Emeritus Members” are former Active Members who have made a major contribution, in time and/or money, to the Founding and/or Operations of the Smith Mountain Lake Democrats and who meet the following criteria.

- a) Have been nominated for Emeritus Status by a voting member of the Steering Committee and approved by said Committee.
- b) Keep Club updated regarding any changes in contact information.
- c) Pay their own expenses to attend those club events where there are costs involved.

Section 5 Rights of Emeritus Members:

- a) Their Dues and Assessments are waived.
- b) Kept on the Club's mailing and email lists so they are informed of Club activities as long as they indicate they want such notifications.

Section 6 Membership in another Democratic club or organization shall not preclude a person from being an Active Member, an Auxiliary Member, or an Emeritus Member of the SML Democrats.

ARTICLE IV DUES

Section 1 Annual dues shall be due and payable at the beginning of the Club's Fiscal Year.

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 1st of one calendar year to May 31st 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, a historian, and/or any 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 with the Bedford County Democratic Committee or the liaison’s designee, a liaison with the Franklin County Democratic Committee or the liaison’s designee, a liaison with the Pittsylvania County Democratic Committee or the liaison’s designee, 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. A simple majority of the total number of 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, Public Relations/Media, Election Support, Daily Office Coordination, and Data Coordination.

Section 2 Duties of the committees shall include but not be limited to the following:
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.
- e) **Public Relations/Media:** Initiate and manage the flow of information reflecting the purpose, goals, activities and initiatives of the SML Democrats Club to the public.
- f) **Election Support:** Keep Members updated regarding upcoming elections and related events; facilitate opportunities for the Club’s active involvement in said events; facilitate Voter Registration; and coordinate events for Get Out The Vote and Election Day.
- g) **Daily Office Coordination:** Maintain general organization of the office; coordinate with and train Daily Office Coordinators (DOCs); ensure adequate office coverage; ensure office is a place where members and visitors are welcomed; and provide office related support to other Committees as needed.
- h) **Data Coordination:** Maintain one or more data files of Members and related information and coordinate IT services.

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 members present and voting at any regular business meeting of the General Membership provided the following process has been followed.

Any proposed amendment(s) be submitted to the Steering Committee at least 2-weeks prior to their formal review of the proposed change(s). Upon approval of the Steering Committee, a copy of the proposed amendment(s) shall be made available to all voting members at least 30 days before the General Membership meeting at which the proposed amendment(s) will be considered for adoption.

The President shall appoint an Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee to formally review the existing Bylaws and make recommendations for any indicated amendments in either of the following instances.

- a) The Steering Committee determines that a formal review of the Bylaws is indicated in view of changing needs or circumstances.
- b) A Member proposes a change in the Bylaws and follows through with the established process when a Bylaws change is requested.

Note: Once all the decisions are made, there will need to be an updating of the Bylaws Table of Contents.