

CONSTITUTION
STAMPTROTTERS SOCIETY of the HUDSON VALLEY

2025

ARTICLE I. Name and Object

This organization is an unincorporated organization or club known as Stamprotters Society of the Hudson Valley. The purpose of the club is to foster, develop, and otherwise enhance the avocation of stamp collecting for the benefit of its members.

ARTICLE II. Membership, Dues

Section 1. Membership in this club is open to all people over the age of 18 interested in philately, subject to rules and regulations provided herein. Special membership may be granted to younger collectors under the age of 18 as non-paying and non-voting members. Life membership and honorary membership may be granted under special circumstances.

Section 2. Club dues shall be set by a majority of the members and become payable the first day of each fiscal year. Any member failing to pay dues within thirty (30) days of the due date shall be considered not in good standing.

Section 3. No member of the club shall be personally liable for any debts, obligations, or liabilities of the club, whether arising in contract, tort, or otherwise, solely by reason of being a member. Any debt, obligation, or liability incurred by a member in their individual capacity, without the express authorization of the club, shall be the sole responsibility of the member who incurred such debt, obligation, or liability.

Section 4. Members found guilty by a two-thirds vote of the members of fraud, dishonesty, or a violation of the Code of Ethics of the American Philatelic Association, then in effect, may be suspended for a specific period, thereby losing rights and privileges of membership, or expelled. Any action deemed detrimental to the club, or to any individual member may be brought before the Executive Committee for investigation and resolution.

The Executive Committee will, if it feels it appropriate, forward their disciplinary action to the membership. Expulsion requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members after a hearing by the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee may establish rules, regulations, and procedures for the hearing or other method of resolution of disputes between members.

ARTICLE III. Officers

Section 1. The club shall be governed by an Executive Committee, which consists of the elected officers: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Elective officers shall serve for a period of two years, or until their respective successors have been elected.

Section 2. The President has general supervisory powers over all matters concerning the club. This officer is an ex-officio member of all standing and ad hoc committees, makes all appointments provided for in the bylaws, or other appointments as necessary, and shall otherwise perform all duties delegated by the bylaws.

Section 3. In the absence of the President at any meeting, the Vice President shall act as President. In the event of the unavailability or disability, resignation, or removal of the President, the Vice President shall succeed to the office of President for the remainder of the current term.

Section 4. The Secretary shall keep an accurate and permanent record of the minutes of the meetings of the club and the Executive Committee and provide a copy to the President for distribution. The minutes of each meeting will be read at the next scheduled business meeting of the club for approval by the members. The Secretary will be the corresponding officer of the club and shall issue all written notices and general correspondence of the club and perform all other duties incident of the office. The Secretary will collect dues, maintain a membership database and transfer all dues to the Treasurer.

Section 5. The Treasurer shall take charge of all monies and properties of the club. All dues and other receipts of the club shall be deposited in a local bank. The Treasurer will submit, for approval, a current report of the club's business activity, including obligations at each scheduled business meeting. The Treasurer shall pay all bills and other obligations of the club. On any recurring expense that has been approved, no further approval must be sought unless a change occurs.

ARTICLE IV. Elections

Section 1. The bi-annual election of officers, each who shall be on the Executive Committee, shall take place at the first meeting of the members in October.

Section 2. At least sixty (60) days prior to the election, the President shall appoint a Nominating Committee whose duty shall be to canvass the members and propose to the club a slate of officers: a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. If there is no Nominating Committee, the Executive Committee shall suggest a slate of officers.

Section 3. Thirty (30) days prior to the election, the Executive Committee or the Nominating Committee, if one exists, shall announce to the meeting of the club its proposed slate of officers. Notwithstanding the nomination process contained herein, nominations can be accepted by the membership at any time including the day of election.

Section 4. If offices are contested, the President will list candidates in alphabetical order for each office and accept votes via email and at the meeting. If they are not contested, the President will accept votes at the meeting.

Section 5. Newly elected officers will be installed on the first day of January following the election.

ARTICLE V. Meetings

Section 1. Roberts' Rules of Order shall govern the conduct of the meetings.

Section 2. The club will meet on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month unless the Executive Committee or a majority of the members vote otherwise. The club's regularly scheduled business shall be conducted on the second Thursday of each month. Members may buy, sell and trade philatelic material without any commission at this meeting. The fourth Thursday of each month is reserved for club auctions.

Section 3. A quorum shall consist of twenty (20%) percent of the members, including one officer. A Quorum is required for club business requiring a vote.

ARTICLE VI. Committees

Section 1. Committees can be created by the President unilaterally at any time or by a majority of a quorum at a business meeting.

Section 2. Unless otherwise specified, committees will report no less than twice annually at business meetings, and these reports will be submitted to the Content Manager for inclusion on the club website, unless members agree to keep their findings confidential.

Section 3. Unless otherwise specified, committees will answer to the President.

Section 4. Committees can be standing (permanent) or ad hoc (with either a specified time limit or with instructions whose fulfillment ends their tenure).

Section 5. Unless given specific tasks that require it, no committee may unilaterally enter a contract or make any commitment on the club's behalf without specific permission.

ARTICLE VII. Fiscal Year

The fiscal year for the club shall commence on January 1.

ARTICLE VIII. Amendments

Section 1. Proposed amendments will be submitted in writing at a business meeting; discussions and modifications to the proposed amendments may occur there. The proposed amendment must receive a majority of the votes of members present to proceed.

Section 2. To proceed, the proposed amendment passed at the business meeting will be forwarded to the members via email at least two weeks prior to the next business meeting where it will be discussed again and subject to a two-third vote of a quorum to be adopted.