



Bylaws

PPRS members and leadership must conduct all activities in accordance with the organization's bylaws. The Nominations and Professional Standards Committee will review and provide any comment/feedback on all proposed bylaws changes before they go to the rest of the organization.

The bylaws are as follows:

Constitution and Bylaws Pennsylvania Public Relations Society (Includes amendments of March 31, 2005)

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Pennsylvania Public Relations Society (PPRS).

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The purpose/object of this Society shall be to support and elevate the professional standards of public relations practitioners, to facilitate professional and social relations among such practitioners and to disseminate professional information of benefit to individuals and the profession.

For purposes of membership in the Society, practitioners can be engaged in public relations or communications or a professional who regularly engages in activities to inform, educate, advocate for or influence and roles deemed qualified by the Nominating and Professional Standards Committee.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Section 1.

There shall be one-four classes of membership, consisting of those persons of good standards of professional practice and ethics who, at the time of their election, are engaged in a recognized field of public relations as described in Article II.

Recent graduates with a degree in a communications-related field and job-seeking professionals with a history of PR experience also will be considered for membership.

Active Membership

Active membership consists of those persons of good standards of professional practice and ethics who, at the time of their application for membership election and are engaged in a recognized field of public relations as defined in Article II.

Young Professionals Membership

A Young Professionals membership will be extended at a reduced rate as set forth by the Executive Committee, to those with three years or less of experience in a recognized field of public relations as outlined in Article II.

Student Membership

Student members who are enrolled at a post-secondary institution will be eligible for membership into the Society. Membership will be extended at a reduced rate, as set forth by the Executive Committee.

Emeritus Membership

Emeritus

~~PPRS members who are fully retired from the field will be granted Emeritus status, Emeritus status will be granted at the direction of the Executive Committee.~~

PPRS members who are fully retired from the field will be granted Emeritus status, and no dues will be assessed. Emeritus status will be granted at the direction of the Executive Committee. A retired member has the responsibility to submit, in writing, by mail or email, a letter informing the PPRS President of their retirement:

Persons who meet the above criteria must also:

- A. Have been certified by a majority of the Nominating and Professional Standards Committee as eligible, and
- B. Have been elected to membership by a vote of no less than three-fourths of the members present in attendance at a regular in person or virtual meeting of which prior written or e-mail or electronic communication has been given, such notice having included a summary of the professional training and experience of each person to be proposed for membership at that meeting.

Section 2.

The amounts of dues and initiation fees shall be established ~~from time to time~~ by the Executive Committee with the consent of a simple majority of the members given in attendance at any regular meeting. Any proposed change to the dues structure will be advertised for at least 30 days and must be voted on by a simple majority of the membership present at the next regular meeting. The Executive Committee may forgive or reduce the dues of any member unable to participate in the activities of the Society for a time due to illness or absence from the area, ~~or for any member retired from active practice.~~

Section 3.

Dues shall be payable on a calendar year basis. An applicant whose membership is approved after June 30 is liable for one-half of the amount of annual dues for that calendar year. Any member whose dues are not paid by January 31 of the same year may be dropped from membership by the Executive Committee. Any member who, through neglect or by design, does not pay his or her dues

~~in a timely fashion, and who is dropped from membership, must reapply for membership to the Society and remit the initiation fee prior to any consideration of his or her application. If there is a membership lapse of less than four years, the member may be admitted back into the Society without a revote as long as the individual is practicing in the field as defined in Article II.~~

ARTICLE IV: ORGANIZATION

The Society shall have its headquarters in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and may authorize the formation of chapters elsewhere than in Harrisburg but within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Section 1.

The officers of this Society must be actively engaged in the practice of public relations as described in Article II at the time of their election and during their tenure. Should an officer's employment status change, a letter of resignation must be submitted to the Executive Committee for action. The officers of the Society shall be:

A. President, whose duties shall be to preside over all meetings of the Society, announce the policy or policies adopted by the Society and represent the Society in whatever manner the business of the Society may require of that office. The President shall appoint the Chairpersonsmen of, and serve as a member ex-officio of, all committees except as specified by the Executive Committee.

B. Vice President, who shall act as representative of the President of the Society on all matters referred by the President, and upon the President's request or absence shall preside at all meetings of the Society and carry out such duties as are usually incident to the office.

C. Secretary, who shall be the administrative officer of the Society, whose duties shall include the keeping and maintenance of records, minutes and correspondence of the Society, and the publication of a newsletter in advance of each Society meeting, unless that duty has been delegated by the President to another individual.

D. Treasurer, who shall be the keeper of the funds and financial records of the Society and shall disburse the funds as ordered and directed by the Society.

Section 2.

The Nominating and Professional Standards Committee shall recommend a slate of officers in the Fall and shall cause that slate to be published in the Society newsletter or by email or electronic communication to all members one month in advance of the meeting at which the membership shall elect officers for the coming calendar year from among those proposed by the Nominating and Professional Standards Committee and from the floor on the occasion of the election.

No officer except the Secretary shall serve more than two one-year terms consecutively in the same office. In the event of a vacancy in an elected office, the Society shall fill the same from its membership by election.

Section 3.

~~The Society shall have any special committees deemed necessary by the President, plus t~~The following standing committees are required:

A. Executive Committee – The President shall be Chair~~person~~man and other members shall include all officers of the Society and the Immediate Past President. The Executive Committee may act for the membership between regular meetings, subject to ratification by the membership at the next regular meeting.

B. Membership Committee—It shall be the duty of the Membership Committee to seek out persons qualified for and desiring membership in the Society and recommend them to the consideration of the Nominating and Professional Standards Committee.

C. Nominating and Professional Standards Committee—Will consist of the past three presidents of the Society. It shall be the duty of the Nominating and Professional Standards Committee to certify the eligibility of any candidate for membership or to refuse such certification. This committee will also work alongside the Executive Committee to propose candidates for office in the Society, both on an annual basis and to fill mid-term vacancies.

D. ~~Activities Programming~~ Committee—It shall be the duty of the ~~Activities Programming~~ Committee to plan ~~activities meetings~~ of the Society in pursuit of its goals as stated in Article II.

~~E. Nominating Committee—Consisting of the three most recent Past Presidents still active in the Society. It shall be the duty of the Nominating Committee to propose candidates for office in the Society, both on an annual basis and to fill mid-term vacancies.~~

E. The Society shall have any special committees deemed necessary by the President.

Section 4.

Any elected officer who is absent without prior excuse from three or more regularly scheduled meetings shall be removed from office.

ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS

Section 1.

The Society shall ~~meet monthly~~have regularly scheduled meetings and activities in pursuit of its professional and social activities set by the Executive Committee, with no fewer than nine meetings per year, according to a schedule determined by the Executive Committee at the start of each year.

Section 2.

There shall be one annual meeting (Evening of Honors) of the Society, in addition to ~~the regularly scheduled monthly~~ meetings ~~or in lieu of one of the monthly meetings~~, for the installation of officers for the forthcoming year.

Section 3.

In any matter concerning the transaction of business, the Society shall resolve itself into executive session. At the request of any member, who need state no reason for such request, this session will be held with only members present.

Section 4.

The members present in attendance shall constitute a quorum at any regular in-person or virtual meeting of which prior notice has been given to each member of the Society by written or email or electronic communication. Each member shall have one vote and the simple majority of such votes shall be sufficient for the transaction of any business, except amendment of this Constitution and Bylaws.

Article VII: GOVERNING

All meetings are conducted under Robert's Rules of Order, Revised unless otherwise specified.

Electronic voting may be used to conduct Society business, including voting candidates into membership.

All Active, Student, Young Professional and Emeritus members are voting members of the Society.

ARTICLE VIII: AMENDMENTS

This Constitution and Bylaws may be amended by a vote of two-thirds of the members present in attendance at a regular in person or virtual meeting, provided the proposed amendments have been received by written or email or electronic communication by each member no fewer than seven days before the vote is taken.

The Nominations and Professional Standards Committee will review and provide any comment/feedback on all proposed bylaws changes before they go to the rest of the organization.