

HUMANISTS OF SARASOTA BAY, INC
BYLAWS REVISED APRIL 1, 2019
AS APPROVED BY THE MEMBERSHIP

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this organization is Humanists of Sarasota Bay, Inc. (HUSBAY) in Florida.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSES AND TENETS

HUSBAY is a not-for-profit, secular organization, created to foster a community of Humanists and Freethinkers dedicated to improving the human condition through rational inquiry, creative thinking, and appropriate action. HUSBAY works in cooperation with the American Humanist Association and other Humanist organizations to meet these goals.

In support of our purpose we adopt the following goals:

To provide a forum for an informed and free exchange of ideas on critical and controversial problems and policies.

To lead an open discussion of the philosophical and moral basis of our society and to encourage ethical practices within our community and our country.

To provide humanistic education in regard to issues that affect the human condition.

To advocate, defend, and practice the principles of democracy, free speech, civil rights, and the separation of state and church as expressed in the Constitution of the United States, the Bill of Rights, and Supreme Court decisions

HUSBAY endorses the following tenets:

Humanists are dedicated to the search for meaning and values through the use of critical intelligence, reason, and the scientific method. Humanists are committed to democracy, tolerance, compassion, community, peace, and equity.

Humanists affirm the dignity and worth of each human being and assert that people are responsible for the realization of their aspirations and that they have within themselves and their community the potential for achieving those aspirations.

Humanists believe that human beings are a part of nature, that they developed as a result of evolutionary processes, and that their values—ethical, political, social, economic—have their source in human experience and culture.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to all who support these purposes and tenets, and pay annual dues as determined by the Board.

ARTICLE IV: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1: Composition

HUSBAY shall have a Board of Directors that will be responsible for HUSBAY'S affairs and policies and shall consist of not less than 5 nor more than 9 members, the immediate past president shall serve on the board for a term of one year. The Board may also include honorary (non-voting) members, including the Founder/First President and any other members so appointed by the membership.

If a Board member vacates a term before the term ends, the President, with Board approval, will appoint a replacement. If the member leaving office is the President, then the Vice President assumes the Presidency until a replacement can be named.

Section 2: Duties & Responsibilities

The President shall be the chief executive officer, coordinating the work of all officers and committees. The President shall chair annual meetings and board meetings and provide agendas. The President shall report regularly to the members.

The Vice-President becomes President if that office becomes vacant. The Vice-President shall assist the President as requested.

The Secretary shall 1) record, type and distribute minutes of all meetings of the Board of Directors and the membership 2) handle HUSBAY's and the Board's correspondence 3) maintain a permanent file of bylaws, minutes and correspondence, reports, newsletters and other records, 4) make a list of policies enacted by members and the Board, and 5) make an annual report to the members.

The Treasurer shall 1) keep records of money received and spent, 2) safeguard HUSBAY's funds, 3) invest funds with the Board's approval, 4) prepare an annual budget and 5) make an annual report to the members.

Section 3: Board Meetings

The Board of Directors shall hold at least one board meeting which shall take place before the annual meeting of HUSBAY. The Board will hold other meetings as necessary. Officers and Board memberships must attend meetings and vote in person. No proxies are allowed.

Regular members of HUSBAY, in attendance at Board meetings, other than the annual meeting, may not vote on issues addressed at the Board meeting.

ARTICLE V: MEETINGS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1: Annual Meeting

HUSBAY shall hold an annual meeting each April, at a time and place determined by the Board of Directors, with 30 days written notice to the members of the date and agenda. Agenda items may be added at the Annual Meeting of HUSBAY by a majority vote of the members present.

Section 2: Elections

The membership shall elect board members at the Annual Meeting. The term of office of all elected board members shall be for three years and shall begin the First of May following the Annual Meeting. Board members, other than the immediate past president, serve three-year terms.

Prior to the annual meeting a nominating committee consisting of two members of the Board and two from the general membership will be appointed by the President to propose a slate of candidates for the next election.

Section 3: Election of Officers

Officers of the Board shall be elected by the board. Immediately following the Annual Meeting, a special meeting of the Board shall be held to elect the Officers.

Section 4: Regular Meetings

HUSBAY shall hold regular meetings throughout the year to promote its purposes and conduct its business.

ARTICLE VI: AMENDMENTS TO THESE BYLAWS

Section 1: Amending Bylaws

These bylaws may be amended at an Annual Meeting, or at a special meeting duly announced, by a simple majority of those members present.

Section 2: Approving Bylaw Changes

The bylaws committee will present proposed changes to the Board of Directors for their recommendation to the membership. These changes must receive at least a 2/3 majority vote of the Board to be recommended.

The amended wording of the bylaws must then be given to the membership at least 15 days prior to the Annual Meeting or special meeting. To be approved, the amended bylaws must receive a simple majority vote of those members present.