

Eastport Democratic Club (Constitution and Bylaws)

6/1/1947

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Wednesday, July 24, 2024

CONSTITUTION
AND
BY-LAWS
of
EASTPORT DEMOCRATIC CLUB, INC.
EASTPORT, Md.

ARTICLE I
NAME-TITLE

Section 1 - The title and name of this club shall be EASTPORT DEMOCRATIC CLUB, INCORPORATED, and its object shall be to encourage its members to support the Democratic tickets in National, State, and County elections. Its motto shall be TRUTH-HONOR-JUSTICE FOR ALL.

Section 2 - The membership of this club shall consist of white male citizens of the United States of America who are registered voters, 21 years of age, and affiliated with the Democratic party.

Section 3 - The affairs of the club shall consist of a President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant-at-arms, and a Board of Directors, consisting of seven members.

Section 4 - The seal of this club shall be round in shape about two inches in diameter, consist of two circles around the outer edges, containing the words EASTPORT DEMOCRATIC CLUB, INCORPORATED, EASTPORT, MARYLAND, and surrounding the outer lines of the front of the club, above which are the words FOUNDED 1929, and under the club outlines a scroll containing the motto of the club TRUTH-HONOR-JUSTICE, and under the scroll the words INCORPORATED 1929. This seal shall remain in the custody of the Secretary of the club, and shall be affixed by him to such articles of writing as may require the signature of the secretary and affixing of said seal.

Section 5 - This fiscal year of the club shall extend from January 1st to December 31st inclusive.

Section 6 - It shall require the unanimous consent of all members present, eligible to vote, to suspend the by-laws of this club.

ARTICLE II

MEETINGS

Section 1 - The regular meeting of this club shall be held on Friday of each week of the year at 8:00 P M for the transaction of such business as may properly be brought before it, except that during the months of June, July, and August the meeting shall be held on the 2nd and 4th Friday of these months.

Section 2 - The President shall call a special meeting upon the receipt of a written request signed by nine members in good standing and eligible to vote, provided the object of the special meeting is stated in the request. Each member of the club shall be sent a written notice of the meeting. It shall require the unanimous consent of all members present and eligible to vote to transact any other business than that for which the special meeting was called.

Section 3 - Nine members in good standing and eligible to vote shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any regular or special meeting.

Section 4 - All meetings of this club shall be conducted in accordance with "Roberts rules of order, revised" except when these by-laws provide otherwise.

Section 5 - The order of business of the club shall be as follows:

1. Roll call of officers
2. Reading of minutes of last meeting
3. Reports of officers
4. Reports of standing committees
5. Reports of special committees
6. Unfinished business
7. Bills
8. Communications
9. Proposed new members
10. Balloting for members
11. New business
12. Good of the club
13. Financial report
14. Announcements of officials or chairman
15. Adjournment.

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 - The membership of this club shall consist of the following classes: Active Membership, Associate Membership, Honorary Membership, and Life Membership.

Section 2 - Any registered Democrat complying with Article I, Section 2 of the Constitution and By-laws, and residing within the confines of the second and sixth election district of Anne Arundel County, may become an active member of this club.

Section 3 - Active membership shall have the privilege of the club, providing they conduct themselves in accordance with the by-laws and rules of the club. They shall have the privilege of speaking and voting on all questions at any meeting of the club, and participation in the election of officers, and may serve on any committees.

Section 4 - Only active members who are in good standing and reside within the first precinct of the second election district of Anne Arundel County will be eligible to hold an elective office, except that the office of President shall require that he be a member in good standing for a period of five consecutive years in this club.

Section 5 - Any citizen of the United States of America who complies with or pledges to comply with Article I, Section 2, of the Constitution and By-laws, may become an associate member of this club. (Except registered voters in the second and sixth election district of Anne Arundel County.

Section 6 - Associate members shall have the privilege of the club providing they conduct themselves according to the Constitution, By-laws and Rules of the club. They may, with the unanimous consent of all members present eligible to vote, be given the privilege of speaking on any question or at any election of officers. They shall not be eligible to be elected or appointed to any office or standing committees. They may serve on special committees.

Section 7 - From time to time the club may elect as Honorary Members such persons as the members may desire to honor for outstanding service to this club.

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Section 8 - Honorary Members shall enjoy all privileges of and be under the same restrictions as any associate member, except that they shall not be assessed fees or dues. They may be dropped at will of the club.

Section 9 - Life Membership shall be granted to members who have been an active or associate member of twenty or more consecutive years in good standing in the club, and at his request be placed on the life membership list with all privileges he enjoyed as an active or associate member, except that he shall not be assessed any fees or dues. Life membership certificates will be provided for this purpose.

ARTICLE IV.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 - Application for membership must in all cases be accompanied by the required fee and advance annual dues. The application must be signed by the applicant and be endorsed by the recommendation of a member who is in good standing, and must be entered upon the records. The fee does not accrue to the club until the applicant has been elected to membership. If rejected, the fee shall be returned.

Section 2 - Application for membership shall immediately be referred to a committee of three members to make proper investigation as to character and qualification and report at the next regular meeting, or as soon thereafter as possible. An applicant cannot be regularly elected without the application having been acted upon by an investigation committee, or the unanimous consent of all members present and eligible to vote.

Section 3 - A rejected applicant for membership has no right of an appeal from the ballot.

Section 4 - An applicant that has been duly elected at any regular meeting shall be notified by the Secretary in writing, and his membership dues card forwarded to the address given on his application for membership.

ARTICLE V

THE BALLOT

Section 1 - When a ballot for membership is to be taken, it shall be the duty of the presiding officer to see that a correct count of the eligible voting members is first made and the ballot box contains a sufficient number of white balls to elect, and at least one third as many black cubes as there are white balls. Five black cubes shall be required to reject an applicant, and he shall not be eligible to membership for a period of six month thereafter.

Section 2 - If there are two or more applicants to be balloted for at one regular meeting, the club may take a collective ballot, not more than five applicants to be balloted on in a group. Should five or more black cubes be voted the ballot shall be declared null and void. The balloting must be renewed, and the applicants voted on separately, until the group that was rejected is disposed before another group shall be selected and balloted on.

Section 3 - A ballot cannot be reopened or reconsidered after the results have been announced, and only be declared void in case the total number of ballots exceed the number present and qualified to vote. Any member may challenge the ballot and ask for a recount of the ballot.

Section 4 - Members not eligible to vote may be punished by fine or suspension as the club may direct.

ARTICLE VI

REINSTATEMENT

Section 1 - Any member who allows his dues to fall in arrears six month, shall after being notified by the Secretary, be subject to suspension, but may be reinstated by paying arrears dues to the Secretary, proving, however, the arrears dues are in the current year in which the arrears occur.

Section 2 - Members suspended for non-payment of dues, who desire to be reinstated to membership, may make application to the club. Such applications shall be accompanied by the amount of one years dues. The application shall be read, and referred to an investigation committee, who shall report at the next regular meeting. The applicant may be voted on by voice vote with the unanimous consent of all members present and eligible to vote.

Section 3 - A reinstated member pays one years dues, no matter in what month he is reinstated, and does not pay more dues for the current year as the fee for reinstatement covers his financial obligation for the current year. After December 31st, he must pay dues for the incoming year, the same as the other members.

Section 4 - Any member suspended for any cause whatsoever, shall be deprived of all privileges of the club.

ARTICLE VII

FEES, DUES, FUNDS, AND BONDS

Section 1 - The initiation fee shall be Three Dollars (\$3.00) for active membership. The initiation fee shall be Three Dollars (\$3.00) for associate members.

Section 2 - The dues for active membership shall be Two Dollars (\$2.00) a year. The dues for associate membership shall be one dollar (\$1.00) a year.

Section 3 - All officers of the club intrusted with the handling and custody of funds and securities belonging to the club, shall be bonded in a legally authorized security or bonding company. All bonds shall be written in the name of the club. The bond of each officer shall be sufficient at all times to protect the club.

Section 4 - All monies accruing to the club in any way shall constitute a General Fund, except as otherwise provided.

ARTICLE VIII
NOMINATION OF OFFICERS

Section 1 - The nomination for the elective offices of the club shall be made of the last regular meeting night in November, and the election of officers on the first regular meeting night in December, and only members in good standing shall be eligible to office.

Section 2 - Officers shall be installed at the first regular meeting in January if circumstances do not prevent, in which case they shall be installed at a succeeding regular meeting. Officers reelected must be installed.

Section 3 - An installation committee shall be appointed by the retiring President to arrange suitable ceremonies for the installation. Any member may serve as installing officer, selection to be made by the committee.

ARTICLE IX
ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 1 - When an election is held for officers, it shall be by secret ballot. All members present and qualified shall be required to vote. To elect, it shall take a majority of ballots cast.

Section 2 - When but one person has been nominated for an office the Secretary may be instructed to cast the vote of the club without motion.

Section 3 - In balloting for officers all blanks are ignored. Ballots shall be credited for whom they are intended whenever that can be determined regardless of inaccuracies in writing them.

Section 4 - Three tellers shall be appointed by the presiding officer to conduct the election of officers. They shall count the numbers eligible to vote, distribute, collect and count the ballots cast at the desk of the Secretary, and report the results to the presiding officers, who will announce the name of the successful candidate, and declare his election to the office he seeks.

Section 5 - All vacancies by death, removal, suspension, resignation or otherwise shall be filled in the manner of original selection. To serve the remainder of the term, and officers so serving, shall be entitled to the honor of the office. Only elective offices may be declared vacant.

Section 6 - Any elective officer absent three consecutive meetings, forfeits the right to said office which on the fourth meeting shall be declared vacant, and filled in the manner provided by Section 5 of this article. However, should he present a lawful and justifiable excuse for his absence which is accepted by the vote of the club, he shall be then privileged to retain said office.

Section 7 - An officer elected to fill a vacancy should be installed as soon thereafter as possible.

ARTICLE X DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1 - The President shall preside and keep order at all business meetings, and shall sign all orders on the treasury that shall be passed by the club, and signed by the Secretary or Assistant Secretary, and shall sign such other documents as may require his signature. He shall have the power to excuse any officer from attendance of any meeting (not to exceed three consecutive meetings). He shall appoint on the first meeting in January or soon thereafter possible the following standing committees:

advisory	seven (7) members
by-laws	Five (5) members
finance	Three (3) members
house	Five (5) members
entertainment	Five (5) members
sick	Three (3) members
publicity	One (1) member

Section 2 - The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.

Section 3 - The President shall have the power to discharge any committee or any member of a committee for negligence in the performance of duty.

Section 4 - He may at his discretion refer any report, resolution, or motion that in any manner is associated with any political parties or requires financial consideration, to the advisory committee, with instructions when to report their recommendations to the club.

Section 5 - The President shall have the power to recess or adjourn the club in case of serious disorder or any other great emergency, to some other time, and place, if necessary.

Section 6 - The 1st Vice President shall in the absence of the President perform all duties pertaining to the office of the President.

Section 7 - The 2nd Vice President shall in the absence of the President and the 1st Vice President perform the duties pertaining to the President.

Section 8 - The Secretary shall keep an accurate record of the official business of the club. He shall attend to all correspondence necessary to properly conduct the business of the club. He shall call the roll of all officers at each regular meeting making necessary reports of their attendance in the minutes of the club. He shall read the minutes of the last meeting from the clubs record books, said minutes to be written or typed and signed by him, in ink, before being submitted for approval by the club. He shall have a copy of the Constitution and By-laws on his desk at each meeting. He shall keep an accurate roll of all classes of membership, making necessary reports thereof to the club, and shall from time to time post on the bulletin board as to their standing financially with the club. He shall receive and turn over to the treasurer all monies accruing in any way to the club, keeping an accurate record thereof. He shall sign all orders on the treasury that shall be passed by the club.

Section 9 - The Secretary shall receive as compensation for his services, the sum of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) per year, payable in quarterly installments on the last meeting in March, June, September, and December.

Section 10 - He shall give bond to the club in the sum of five hundred dollars (\$500.00). The premium on said bond to be paid by the club.

Section 11 - The Assistant Secretary shall assist the Secretary in the performance of his duties when requested by the Secretary, and in the absence of the Secretary, perform all duties pertaining to the office of the Secretary.

Section 12 - The Treasurer shall receive all money accruing in any way to the club, and shall deposit said funds in a bank satisfactory to, and in the name of, the club. He shall pay all orders on the treasury by checks on the bank designated by the club, when properly signed by the President and Secretary, or the officer designated to act in their absence. He shall make weekly reports to the club of its financial status, and a quarterly report of all funds of the club at the end of each quarter. He shall, after each business meeting, and after all financial obligations are properly disposed of by the club, allocate all remaining funds accruing to the club from any source to the following funds as specified:

General Fund shall be maintained at the sum of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) and kept on deposit in the checking account of the club.

House Committee Funds shall be maintained at Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) and shall be in the custody of the chairman of the house committee.

Sinking Funds shall receive all money accruing to the club after all bills are paid, and the funds are in balance as provided in the by-laws, and deposited in the saving account of the club.

Section 13 - The Treasurer shall receive as compensation for his service the sum of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) per year, payable in quarterly installments on the last regular meeting of March, June, September and December.

Section 14 - He shall give bond to the club in the sum of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00). The premium to be paid by the club.

Section 15 - The Sergeant-at-arms shall take charge of the door at all business meetings, and admit only members in good standing, unless otherwise directed by the presiding officer. He shall assist in the maintaining of order during meetings. He shall assist in the balloting for membership as directed by the presiding officer. He shall have charge and care of the balloting box. He shall execute all orders issued to him by the presiding officer during regular business meetings.

Section 16 - The Board of Directors shall be property owners, and shall have charge of all property belonging to the club, and make an annual report of its condition to the club at the 3rd regular meeting in December. The Board shall prepare specifications setting forth details on which contractors shall base their bids on any work done for the club. The Board Chairman shall act in the capacity of inspector, and have full supervision of any work authorized by the club unless the club shall specifically provide otherwise. The Board shall purchase all items of material required for the use of the club, and be

shall have the power to spend any sum not to exceed Five Dollars (\$5.00) between any two regular meetings to cover such expenditures. At least a majority of the Board of Directors shall sign all bills against the club, after having ascertained the correctness of said bills, and no bills shall be passed for payment without these signatures, unless the club specifically provides otherwise. The Chairman of the Board of Directors shall be selected by election from its own membership.

ARTICLE XI DUTIES OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 1 - ADVISORY COMMITTEE - Their duties shall be to consider and advise upon all matters presented to them by the President, politically or otherwise, and cooperate with him in administering the affairs and organization work of the club. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee shall represent the presiding officer on the floor at regular business meetings. In the absence of the Chairman, the presiding officer may appoint any member of the committee to act as chairman pro-tem. The advisory committee shall, whenever charges of misconduct are preferred against ~~the committee~~ any member of the club, at a regular club business meeting, the President shall immediately refer all evidence for and against the accused member and set the date of trial. The committee cannot impose punishment. They shall recommend their findings and punishment to the club for final action.

Section 2 - BY-LAWS - Their duties shall be to put in proper form any proposed amendments or revision to the Constitution, By-Laws and Rules of Order submitted to the club. The Chairman shall perform the duties of Parliamentarian.

Section 3 - FINANCE COMMITTEE - Their duties shall be to audit the books of all officers and committee men entrusted with the handling and custody of funds accruing to the club in any manner, and shall report in writing status of financial condition of the club at the end of each quarter, namely: all receipt and for what received, all expenditures, cash in bank and on hand, cash balance at date of report. They shall report members in good standing, and perform duties usually devolving on such committees.

Section 4 - HOUSE COMMITTEE - Their duties shall be to conduct the business of the bar, and have full authority in the basement. They shall keep an accurate record of all stock purchased, all stock sold and all stock on hand, and report same at each regular meeting of the club. They shall before each regular business meeting of the club, turn over to the Treasurer all bills and money accrued in any manner by the club, and keep a proper record thereof. They shall have full authority over the Steward of the basement in the performance of his duties, and power to suspend the Steward for misconduct between regular meeting of the club.

Section 5 - ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE - Their duties shall be to provide all arrangements for entertainment directed and authorized by the club, and make a written report of receipts and/or expenditures thereof, at the business meeting following the entertainment or as soon as possible thereafter. They shall not exceed the sum of money authorized by the club for any specific entertainment, except when authorized by the club for any specific entertainment, except when the entertainment is for financial gain for the club, and an appropriation is provided for same. They shall have full charge of the upkeep and care of the kitchen and all its equipment.

Section 6 - SICK COMMITTEE- Their duties shall be to visit sick members and report their sickness or distress at the regular meeting of the club. They shall, however, when a death of a member of this club occurs, see that proper floral ~~design~~ design, as specified by the club, is immediately sent to the deceased member, and ascertain what service the club may render.

Section 7 - PUBLICITY COMMITTEE - His duties shall be to report interesting items of news regarding the club to the public through the press, and to perform all duties usually devolving on such committees.

ARTICLE XII

Section 1 - Any proposed amendment or revision to this Constitution and By-laws shall first be submitted to the By-laws Committee to be placed in proper form. It may then be read at any regular business meeting of the club and will be ordered posted on the bulletin board by the presiding officer. After it shall remain on the bulletin board for at least two meetings, it may be brought before the club for final action. A two-third majority of all members present, eligible to vote, shall be necessary to pass any amendment or revision of this Constitution and By-laws.

Adapted to take effect on and after June 1, 1947.

President

Test:

Secretary

(L.S.)

HOUSE RULES

In accordance with Article , Section the house committee shall have full power of the operation of the club within the below provisions:

1. The club shall be in operation during the following hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday	4:00 P.M. until 11:00 P.M.
Friday	4:00 P.M. until 2:00 P.M.
Saturday and Sunday	9:00 A.M. until 12:00 P.M.
2. The following signals will announce the closing of the bar:

The first blink of lights, 20 minutes before closing - 10 minutes remaining to serve.

The second blink of lights, 10 minutes before closing- no further service at the bar.

The third blink of lights, Closing time - Club House vacated - unfinished drinks shall not be carried from the Club House.

The Club Bar License prohibits the sale to and use of intoxicating liquor by persons under legal age and to visitors who are not bonafide guests. The license requires that all drinks to be consumed on the Club premises and the taking of drinks from the club is a direct violation of the law and thus jeopardize the Club privilege. No liquor other than that served at the Bar shall be used in the Club House.
3. No person under 21 years of age shall be permitted in the Bar or Card Room nor shall he consume any liquor on Club premises. Nor shall any employee, member or guest of the Club provide any minor with liquor on Club premises. Persons over 18 years of age may be served beer or wine on Club premises.
4. All games in Club shall be subject to such regulations as may be imposed by the House Committee and approved by the Club membership.
5. Only the Chairman of the House Committee or in his absence the President may reprove or discipline any Club employee. Other members should report infractions or incidents to the above for necessary action.
6. The Club will not be responsible for the loss of personal property of members and guests.
7. No persons will be admitted to the club house except members and guests. All others calling upon members or having business connections with the Club shall be admitted by the barperson on duty.
8. Members are not allowed to send any employee out of the Club on any pretense.
9. All Privileges shall be denied any member with a check in default until such check has been redeemed. All checks are to be cashed by the barperson. No member shall cash a personal check to exceed \$25.00.
10. All members shall be required to exhibit their membership card when so requested by the House Committee or the barperson on duty.
11. The barperson may not extend credit.
12. The barperson and members of the House Committee are in charge at all times and are authorized and directed to carry out these rules.
13. Any member offending against these Club rules shall be subject to suspension or expulsion by the Advisory Board or by the membership at a regular or special meeting.
14. All properties of the Club requested by a member will have request approved by the Board of Directors. If request is approved by the Board of Directors, the member will sign a custody receipt before removal from the club.
15. Members and guests shall conduct themselves in a gentlemanly manner at all times. Vulgarity, profanity, or indecent conduct will not be tolerated by members or guests. Members inviting guests into the club will be responsible for their conduct at all times.
16. No dogs or other pets will be allowed in the Club House.
17. Non-members residing within a ten (10) mile radius of the Club may not visit the Club more than three (3) times within any calendar year, except on such occasions authorized by the Club.