

BY LAWS OF THE
TORCH CLUB OF THE FOX VALLEY
Appleton, Wisconsin

ARTICLE 1 - NAME

Section 1. Name

The name of this organization shall be The Torch Club of The Fox Valley, a member of the International Association of Torch Clubs, Incorporated.

Section 2. Charter

This Club hereby ratifies and agrees to be bound by the Constitution of the International Association of Torch Clubs, Incorporated, and the lawful acts of its Board of Directors.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

Section 1. Purpose

The primary purpose of this Club shall be to give members an opportunity to meet in the spirit of fellowship, expand their knowledge, develop a breadth of thought, inquiry, and culture, and foster a value for life-long learning and civic well- being.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Qualifications of Members

This Club may admit to membership those individuals who meet the following qualifications:

- (a) Who are recommended by one or more Torch Club of the Fox Valley members.
- (b) Who are interested in Torch activities are intellectually curious and may be willing and able to contribute to club programs through attendance and occasional educational or informational presentations.
- (c) Who in the judgment of a majority of local club officers satisfies one of the following criteria:
 - 1. Has a recognized degree from an accredited school or educational program or has a current license or certification in a recognized occupational field or relevant training and experience in their chosen career.

or

2. Has pursued work that requires a mastery of some area of knowledge and skills and / or the exercise of judgment and responsibility in an occupation.

or

3. Maintains standards of competence / training or licensure in a professional practice (e.g., law, health care, education, or finance etc.).

Section 2. Number of Members

The number of active members shall be limited to sixty (60) except as it may be necessary to extend this limit in order to admit transfers from other clubs.

Section 3. Number of Professions

The Board of Directors shall encourage diversity in the membership.

Section 4. Type of Members

All members of this Club, except those who have emeritus status as provided by the Constitution of the Association, shall be active, dues-paying members.

Section 5. Election to Membership

Each applicant for membership shall be proposed by an active member in good standing, who shall present the applicant's member registration form to the Club secretary. The secretary shall confirm the eligibility of the proposed member and recommend candidates who meet Club membership criteria to the Club officers for review and approval. Upon approval by a majority of the Club officers, the applicant may thereafter be admitted for membership. Membership is contingent on an application that includes the membership fee and the current annual dues.

ARTICLE IV - FEES AND DUES

Section 1. Membership Fee

The initial membership fee shall be set by the local Club and the International Association. All membership fees are payable to the local club.

Section 2. Annual Dues

The local and international annual dues (January 1 through December 31) shall be set by the Board of Directors and by the International Association respectively.

ARTICLE V - MEMBERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

Section 1. Non-Payment of Dues

Any person who shall be in arrears for dues for one year shall cease to be a member of the Club. However, upon application and at the discretion of the Board of Directors, the person in arrears may be reinstated upon payment of all current dues.

ARTICLE VI - OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1. Officers

The officers of the Club shall be a president, a vice-president, a secretary, and a treasurer. All officers shall be elected for two-year terms.

Section 2. Board of Directors

The Board of Directors shall consist of the officers, who shall act in similar capacities for the Board, the chair of each committee, and the immediate past president. They shall meet at such times as the President may find it necessary to call them together.

Section 3. Time of Election

The officers shall be elected at the annual March meeting in odd numbered years.

Section 4. Nominations

The President shall, no later than the February meeting, appoint a Committee to make nominations for the offices, their report to be made to the Club members through the secretary when the notices for the March meeting are sent to said members. Additional nominations may be made from the floor by members at the March meeting.

Section 5. Election

Voting shall be by voice at the March meeting, upon the nominations made, and the newly elected officers and directors shall assume office at the May meeting. Proxies will be allowed.

Section 6. Vacancies

Any vacancy in the Board of Directors or among the officers occurring during the term shall be filled by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Board of Directors.

Section 7. Quorum For Board of Directors

Three directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business not otherwise specified herein.

Section 8. Powers of the Board of Directors

All matters of business pertaining to the Club, except such as may be herein reserved to the membership at large or to the officers, shall be vested in the Board of Directors.

Section 9. Duties of Officers

The duties of the officers shall be those usually incumbent upon such positions.

ARTICLE VII - COMMITTEES and DIRECTORSHIPS

Section 1. Committees and Directorships

The incoming President will make such appointments as are necessary to the following positions:

- a) Membership Director
- b) Website Editor

The Vice President shall be the Program Director. Additional members may be appointed to act as committees under the aforesaid directors and editor.

Section 2. Duties

The duties of these committees shall be those usually incumbent upon such committees.

ARTICLE VIII - MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular Meetings

The regular meetings of this club shall be held once each month, except during June,

July, and August, at such time and place as the Board of Directors may decide.

Section 2. Annual Meeting

The annual meeting for the receipt of yearly reports of the officers, directors and editor shall be the regular meeting in March. The election of officers shall take place at this meeting in odd numbered years. Prior notice in writing shall be mailed or emailed to each member at least seven (7) days before the meeting.

Section 3. Special Meetings

The President may call a special meeting at any time. Upon written request from at least one fifth (1/5) of the members, the president must call a special meeting.

Section 4. Quorum

A quorum shall consist of at least one-third (1/3) of the active members of the Club.

Section 5. Rules of Order

The latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern in all parliamentary practice not otherwise covered by the Constitution of the International Association of Torch Clubs or by these By-Laws.

ARTICLE IX - ENDORSEMENT OF RESOLUTIONS OR CANDIDATES

Section 1. Freedom of Discussion

It is one of the objectives of this Club to encourage the entire freedom of discussion and expression of opinion among its members. The discussion of pending legislation or proposed or suggested governmental action or any civic matter of importance may be introduced for the enlightenment and education of the members, with assurance that views expressed will not be publicized.

Section 2. Resolutions or Candidates Not To Be Endorsed

No resolution which would have the effect of placing any member on record, pro or con, upon any subject, shall be permitted. Neither shall the Club at any time endorse or recommend any candidate for political office.

ARTICLE X - AMENDMENTS

Section 1.

These By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership at any

annual meeting, or at any regular or special meeting provided that notice of the proposed amendment(s) shall have been mailed or emailed to each member at least seven (7) days previously. Proxies will be allowed.

Adopted: March 14, 2002. Amended: March 12, 2009; October 3, 2011; May 16, 2024