St. Francis
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

St. Francis Historical Society
Bylaws Revisions - 2015

Summary of Revisions

April 18, 2015

Original Society Bylaws Of 1978 Are Being Revised To Achieve The Following Goals:

- Comply With Current State & Local Statues

- Designate Nojoshing Newsletter & Website As Official

- Clarify Membership Year

- Define Membership Levels & Related Benefits

- Clarify Board Member Positions & Duties

- Clarify Board Member & Officer Election Process

- Allow Electronic Communication As Official Channel

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- **The Society is "non-discriminatory in compliance with state, federal and local laws."**

- **Tax exempt status maintained through the IRS and "Wisconsin Department of Regulation and Licensing, and the Wisconsin Department of Revenue."**

- **Status is reported to the State Historical Society and the "Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions."**

- **Copies of official Society documents as well as copies of official meeting Minutes will be maintained at the Society offices in "Minutes Books," available for Membership and public review.**

- The "*Nojoshing*" newsletter is stated as the official newsletter of the Society.

- The Society website is stated as an official source of information for Society business.

- Official released of information or notifications to the Membership are issued through both the Nojoshing newsletter and the Society website.

- Society website URL:

    http://stfranciswihistoricalsociety.org/

- **Membership year remains January 1st – December 31st.**

- **Dues expire on December 31st - not January 20th.**

- **Members must be "in good standing" – that is "with dues paid in full" – to be eligible to vote at a meeting.**

- **Four (4) member meetings are held during the year. All are the 3rd Saturday of the month:**
  - **January (the Annual Society Meeting)**
  - **April**
  - **July**
  - **October**

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Nojoshing

- **Four (4) membership levels are available:**
  - **Annual Individual (1 vote at meetings)**
  - **Annual Family (up to 2 votes at meetings)**
  - **Annual Non-profit / Small Business (1 vote at meetings)**
  - **Annual Corporate (1 vote at meetings)**

- **Each Active Membership receives one (1) copy of Nojoshing newsletter via either regular mail or eMail.**

- **Membership Levels Removed**
  - **Annual Student (no longer available)**
  - **Annual Sustaining (no longer available)**
  - **Lifetime (no new Lifetime memberships available. Current lifetime members remain and are allowed 1 vote at meeting)**

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- **Five (5) Board of Directors are elected by the Membership. They have three (3) year terms.**

- **Four (4) Officer positions (President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Sectretary) are elected by the Membership. They have one (1) year terms. They are also Board Members for that year (called "ex-officio")**

- **Duties of all Directors include conducting the affairs of the Society and regular attendance at official meetings.**

- **Duties of the four Officer positions are spelled out.**

- **The Board of Directors may also create other Director positions as they see fit.**

- **"Honorary" Director (Board elected) positions allow designated members to vote as a Director without regular meeting attendance.**

- **Board of Director and Officer elections are held during the January Annual Membership meeting**

- **Members first vote for election of members to vacant Board of Directors seats.**

- **Members then vote for election of members to the Officer positions.**

- **The nomination process for both Board and Officer positions is now spelled out.**

- **A member may not hold both an Officer and (actual) Board position at the same time.**

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- **The Society was formed in 1977 / 78, prior to modern communications methods like eMail or the Internet.**

- **The Bylaws were revised to allow the Board of Directors to conduct votes on issues via eMail, with follow-up at the next Board meeting.**

- **The Bylaws were revised to allow Members to be notified of announcements, events, and pending voting issues through eMail and the Society website, in addition to the current regular mail methods.**