

HUMANISTS OF SARASOTA BAY, INC
BYLAWS

(As amended and approved by membership on April 18, 2016)

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 organization created to foster a community of 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: MEMBERS

Membership is open to all who support these purposes and tenets, and pay annual dues.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERS

Section 1: General:

HUSBAY shall have four elected officers: President, Vice-President for Programs, Treasurer and Membership Chairperson, and Secretary. Other officers and committees may be appointed by the Board of Directors. The elected officers shall be nominated and elected by a majority vote of the members at an Annual Meeting of HUSBAY. If an office becomes vacant, the Board shall select a replacement to complete the term. Dues shall be set by a vote of members at the Annual Meeting.

Section 2: The President

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.

Section 3: Vice-Presidents

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

Section 4: Secretary

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, correspondence, reports, newsletters, and other records, 4) maintain a list of policies enacted by the Members and the Board, and 5) make an annual report to the members.

Section 5: Treasurer

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. The treasurer also maintains a current membership roster which includes, name, address, telephone and email information.

ARTICLE V: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1: Composition

HUSBAY shall have a Board of Directors which shall consist of the elected and appointed officers, the immediate past president for a term of one year, and at least two additional members at large. The number of members at large shall be chosen so that the total number of directors is an odd number. These directors shall be eligible to vote at all Board meetings. The Board will also include honorary (non-voting) members, including the Founder/First President and any other members so appointed by the membership.

Section 2: Duties

The Board of Directors shall be responsible for HUSBAY's affairs and policies.

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 members must vote in person, by telephone or electronic mail; 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 VI: 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. Robert's Rules of Order shall be followed in the conduct of all business at the Annual Meeting.

Section 2: Elections

Ultimate authority resides in the members. The members shall elect officers and other board members at the Annual Meeting. The term of office of all elected officers and other board members shall begin the First of May following the Annual Meeting. All elected and appointed officers shall serve for a term of two years. Board members other than the immediate past president shall serve for a

term of two consecutive years. Elected and appointed officers and other board members may succeed themselves.

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: Regular Meetings

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

ARTICLE VII: 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 two-thirds majority of those members present.

Section 2: Approving Bylaw Changes

The president shall compose any changes to the bylaws that the membership has voted for and within 30 days shall submit the amended wording of the bylaws to the Board for approval.