

# **CONSTITUTION and BY-LAWS**

**Grand Rapids Camera Club  
Grand Rapids, Michigan  
Established 1898**

**Revised April 2008**

## **ARTICLE I: Name**

This non-profit organization shall be known as the Grand Rapids Camera Club.

## **ARTICLE II: Objectives**

To promote and encourage interest and education in all forms of photography, and promote good fellowship among those interested in photography.

## **ARTICLE III: Membership**

Section 1: Membership in this club shall be extended to all persons who are interested in photography upon payment of dues to the Treasurer. Membership shall be of two types, active and honorary.

Section 2: Active membership shall consist of those who have paid the prescribed dues or those whose dues have been waived by vote of the Board of Directors for Club service.

Section 3: Honorary members shall be recommended to the Board of Directors or by the Board of Directors for outstanding service to or for the Club or community and shall be approved at a regular meeting by majority of active members present. They shall be privileged to attend regular meetings and Club activities but shall not have a vote, hold office or participate in competition.

Section 4: Membership year will run from January 1 through December 31, inclusive.

## **ARTICLE IV: Officers**

Section 1: The officers of this Club shall consist of President, Vice President of Programs, Vice President of Equipment, Secretary and Treasurer, who shall be elected at the May meeting, by ballot, to serve for two years and shall serve until their successors are elected. The President, Vice President of Programs and Secretary shall be elected in years alternate to those years for the election of Vice President of Equipment and Treasurer.

Section 2: There shall be a Board of Directors, which shall consist of the President, Vice President of Equipment, Vice President of Programs, Secretary, Treasurer, Past President, six members to be termed as the Directors, and, as *ex officio* members of the Board, with all rights of participation in, including voting on all matters brought before the Board, the editor of the newsletter now called the *Lights and Shadows*, the Digital Coordinator and the Competition Chairperson. The Directors are to serve for a period of two years, half of the Directors to be elected each year. The Past President is to serve only one two-year term in this position.

#### **ARTICLE V: Vacancies in Office**

Vacancies in office shall be filled by a majority vote at the regular business meeting of the Club. Notification of the vacancy to the membership shall be at the first regular business meeting following the vacancy with the election to be held at the next month's regular business meeting.

#### **ARTICLE VI: Amendments**

This Constitution may be altered or amended only by a two-thirds vote of the active members present at any regular business meeting, provided due notice of such alteration or amendment shall have been given at the regular business meeting one month prior to the meeting at which the amendment is to be voted upon and/or published and made available to all members.

#### **ARTICLE VII: Constitution By-Laws**

The government of this Club, its officers and affairs, shall be directed by a code of By-Laws as set forth below.

#### **BY-LAWS**

##### **ARTICLE I: Meetings**

Section 1: The meetings of this Club shall occur the third Wednesday of each month at 7:15 o'clock in the evening from the third Wednesday in September to the third Wednesday of June, inclusive.

Section 2: If one is available, there shall be a monthly educational workshop which shall be open to members only and their invited guests.

Section 3: Meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the President or any five members of the year (a minimum of six meetings a year), and shall be open to members who

have pertinent matters to be acted upon by the Board, by notification to the President prior to the meeting so the matter can be added to the agenda.

## **ARTICLE II: Duties of Officers**

Section 1: It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings, appoint such committees as shall be required from time to time, and promote the general welfare and progress of the club.

Section 2: The Vice Presidents shall automatically share the responsibilities as chairpersons of programs and workshops. The prime responsibility of the Vice President of Programs is to insure the scheduling of the workshops and programs, with approval of the Board. Furthermore, it shall be the responsibility of the Vice President of Programs, in case of resignation, illness or other absence of the President, to assume his or her duties. The prime responsibility of the Vice President of Equipment is to provide for and take care of the Club's equipment, be responsible for insurance and for projection of slide competitions.

Section 3: It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep an accurate record off all business proceedings of the Club; to preserve all reports and communications as necessary; to attend to general Club correspondence and general clerical work; to post the minutes of the previous Board of Director's meeting at the next regular meeting of the Club.

Section 4: It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive all monies paid into the club and to issue receipts for the same; to hold in trust all monies belonging to the Club; to pay all bills authorized by the President and to keep an itemized record of all receipts and expenditures and to report the same at board meetings. He or she shall provide members with a financial statement at the end of the fiscal year, which is January 1 through December 31. He or she shall turn over to his or her successor all funds and records within one month after vacating office. He or she shall maintain an up to date membership list.

## **ARTICLE III: Other Elected and Appointed Positions**

Section 1: The Club shall have an Editor to prepare the Club newsletter.

Section 2: The Club shall have a historian to maintain data for historical value.

Section 3: Delegates or representatives to affiliated organizations shall be responsible to each organization in executing their prescribed duties. Each shall be expected to attend a majority of regular Camera Club meetings and affiliated meetings or provide for an alternate.

Section 4: The President shall appoint, as necessary, positions to provide for a smooth running Club.

#### **ARTICLE IV: Quorum**

Section 1: Board of Directors and committee meetings to conduct business shall consist of at least two thirds of its members.

Section 2: A motion may be carried at any regular business meeting by a simple majority of the members present.

#### **ARTICLE V: Board of Directors – Duties**

Section 1: The Board of Directors shall have power to transact the business of the Club.

Section 2: The Board of Directors shall not incur liability to exceed \$300.00 for any purpose other than year-end trophies and seminar expenses without the vote of club membership.

#### **ARTICLE VI: Dues**

Section 1: The dues for Active members shall be determined by the Board of Directors and payable January 1 for one year. The spouse of an active member can become an active voting member of the Club with all privileges, for a reduced cost as determined by the Board, typically 1/3 the regular membership dues. Honorary members shall not be required to pay dues. After September 1, new members may be accepted for the balance of the current year, plus the next full year, for the regular membership price of dues. Full time students shall pay one half regular dues.

Section 2: If dues are not paid by the regular of April, the member will be removed from the membership and mailing list.

Section 3: Record will be kept for two years after a member ceases to pay dues. If written request is made to the Board of Directors, the records will be kept and additional agreed upon length of time.

#### **ARTICLE VII: Competitions**

Section 1: This club will hold monthly competition and year-end competition based on the approved current judging standards by the Board of Directors.

Section 2: The competition year will run from January 1 to December 31.

### **ARTICLE VIII: Property**

All property belonging to the Club shall be at the disposal of the membership and other functions may be approved by the Board of Directors and shall be kept in good repair at Club expense. Damage resulting from misuse shall be compensated for by the user. It shall be the duty of the Vice President of Equipment to maintain the whereabouts of the equipment.

### **ARTICLE IX: Amendments**

These By-Laws may be amended or added to only by a two-thirds vote of the active members present at any regular Club meeting, provided there shall have been notice to that effect one month previous as per the Constitution.

### **ARTICLE X: Dissolvement**

In the event that the Club must be dissolved, all properties, funds, etc. shall be donated to a recognized photographic organization.

### **ARTICLE XI: Elections**

Notification of elections shall be made in the March *Lights and Shadows* newsletter and nominations from the floor (membership) will be open at the March general meeting. At the April Board of Directors meeting, a slate of candidates will be drawn up to be presented to the membership. This slate is in addition to any nominations from the floor (membership) and is to insure that a minimum of one candidate is available for each position to be filled. The Board will only place in nomination the name of each incumbent or add one name for each position to be filled if the incumbent does not wish to run for re-election. Nomination from the floor (membership) will still be encouraged during the April general meeting, and the nominations shall be closed prior to the end of the April membership meeting.

Elections shall be by written ballot, and it shall describe the length of term for each position. The length of term, as described before, is normally two years except when a vacancy is to be filled. The President, Vice President of Programs, Secretary and half of the Directors shall be elected during the odd numbered years, while the Vice President of Equipment, Treasurer and the balance of the Directors shall be elected during the even numbered years.

The ballot, approved by the Board during the May Board of Directors meeting, shall be published and available prior to the May general meeting. Absentee ballots may be requested and will be counted as long as they are received by the President prior to the May general meeting.

The election of all positions and officers shall be held at the May general meeting. The President shall appoint a Ballot Counting Committee of two to three Board Members who are not on the ballot. The votes shall be counted and verified after the ballots have been collected. The Committee shall then hand over to the President all ballots and the tabulated results. The President shall hold these records for thirty days after the results are announced, and then they shall be destroyed unless there is a protest filed. If a protest is filed, the President shall call for a special meeting of the Board of Directors as soon as possible to help resolve the problem.