

## Bylaws of SWAN (Successful Women Always Network)

### Part 1 — Interpretation

1 (1) In these bylaws, unless the context otherwise requires:

"**directors**" means the directors of the society for the time being;

"**registered address**" of a member means the member's address as recorded in the register of members.

"**society**" is the term applied to the group of women who apply for and are accepted for membership and pay annual membership dues to SWAN.

### Part 2 — Membership

2 A person may apply to the directors for membership in the society and on acceptance by the directors, and payment of annual dues, is a member.

3 Every member must uphold the constitution and comply with these bylaws.

4 The amount of the annual membership dues must be determined at the annual general meeting of the society.

5 A person ceases to be a member of the society

(a) by delivering her resignation in writing to the secretary of the society or by mailing or delivering it to the address of the society,

(b) on her death or, in the case of a corporation, on dissolution,

(c) on being expelled, or

(d) on having been a member not in good standing for 12 consecutive months.

6 (1) A member may be expelled by a special resolution of the members passed at a general meeting.

(2) The notice of special resolution for expulsion must be accompanied by a brief statement of the reasons for the proposed expulsion.

(3) The person who is the subject of the proposed resolution for expulsion must be given an opportunity to be heard at the general meeting before the special resolution is put to a vote.

7 All members are in good standing except a member who has failed to pay her current

annual membership fee, or any other subscription or debt due and owing by the member to the society, and the member is not in good standing so long as the debt remains unpaid.

### **Part 3 — Meetings of Members**

8 The society will hold three types of meetings:

Networking Meetings – monthly meetings for members to network and share business information.

Annual General Meeting – in June of each year, for the Directors to report on state of the society, for the next year’s Directors to be elected, for any business requiring voting of the general membership.

General Meetings – an extraordinary membership meeting, to be called during the year by the Directors, to handle any special business which cannot be delayed until the Annual General Meeting.

All meetings of the society must be held at the time and place that the directors decide.

9 The directors may, when they think fit, convene an extraordinary general meeting.

10 (1) At least 14 days notice shall be given by mail or email of any annual general or extraordinary general meeting of society members.

(2) Notice of a general meeting (annual or extraordinary) must specify the place, day and hour of the meeting, and, in case of special business, the general nature of that business.

(3) The accidental omission to give notice of a meeting to, or the non-receipt of a notice by, any of the members entitled to receive notice does not invalidate proceedings at that meeting.

### **Part 4 — Proceedings at General Meetings**

11 Special business is

(a) all business at an extraordinary general meeting, except the adoption of rules of order for the meeting, and adjournment of the meeting.

(b) all business conducted at an annual general meeting, except the following:

(i) the adoption of rules of order;

- (ii) the consideration of the financial statements;
- (iii) the report of the directors;
- (iv) the report of the auditor, if any;
- (v) the election of directors;
- (vi) the appointment of the auditor, if required;
- (vii) the other business that, under these bylaws, ought to be conducted at an annual general meeting, or business that is brought under consideration by the report of the directors issued with the notice convening the meeting.

- 12 (1) Business must not be conducted at a general meeting if a quorum is not present, other than the election of a chair and the adjournment or termination of the meeting.
- (2) If at any time during a general meeting there ceases to be a quorum present, business then in progress must be suspended until there is a quorum present or until the meeting is adjourned or terminated.
- (3) A quorum is 3 members present or a greater number that the members may determine at a general meeting.
- 13 If within 30 minutes from the time appointed for a general meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting, if convened by request of members, must be terminated. In any other case, it must be adjourned to the same day in the next week, at the same time and place, and if, at the adjourned meeting, a quorum is not present within 30 minutes from the time appointed for the meeting, the members present constitute a quorum.
- 14 Subject to bylaw 15, the president of the society, the vice president or, in the absence of both, one of the other directors present, must preside as chair of a general meeting.
- 15 If at a general meeting
- (a) there is no president, vice president or other director present within 15 minutes after the time appointed for holding the meeting, or
  - (b) the president and all the other directors present are unwilling to act as the chair,
- the members present must choose one of their number to be the chair.
- 16 (1) A general meeting may be adjourned from time to time and from place to place, but business must not be conducted at an adjourned meeting other than the business left unfinished at the meeting from which the adjournment took place.
- (2) When a meeting is adjourned for 10 days or more, notice of the adjourned meeting must be given as in the case of the original meeting.

- (3) Except as provided in this bylaw, it is not necessary to give notice of an adjournment or of the business to be conducted at an adjourned general meeting.
- 17 (1) A resolution proposed at a meeting need not be seconded, and the chair of a meeting may move or propose a resolution.
- (2) In the case of a tie vote, the chair does not have a casting or second vote in addition to the vote to which she may be entitled as a member, and the proposed resolution does not pass.
- 18 (1) A member in good standing present at a meeting of members is entitled to one vote.
- (2) Voting is by show of hands.
- (3) Voting by proxy is not permitted.
- 19 A corporate member may vote by its authorized representative, who is entitled to speak and vote, and in all other respects exercise the rights of a member, and that representative must be considered as a member for all purposes with respect to a meeting of the society.

#### **Part 5 — Directors and Officers**

- 20 (1) The directors may exercise all the powers and do all the acts and things that the society may exercise and do, and that are not by these bylaws or by statute or otherwise lawfully directed or required to be exercised or done by the society in a general meeting, but subject, nevertheless, to
- (a) all laws affecting the society,
  - (b) these bylaws, and
  - (c) rules, not being inconsistent with these bylaws, that are made from time to time by the society in a general meeting.
- (2) A rule, made by the society in a general meeting, does not invalidate a prior act of the directors that would have been valid if that rule had not been made.
- 21 (1) The president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, past president and one or more other persons are the directors of the society.
- (2) The number of directors must be 5 or a greater number determined from time to time at a general meeting.
- 22 (1) The directors must retire from office at each annual general meeting when their successors are elected.
- (2) There shall be a Nominating Committee to recommend a slate of officers for election at each Annual General Meeting, consisting of the present President, and the two other Board Members.

- (3) The responsibility of the Nominating Committee will be to call for nominations from the membership in April, to prepare the slate of nominees for acclamation or election at the Annual General Meeting in November.
  - (4) Each Director must be an active member of the Society.
  - (5) The Nominating Committee will mail notice of the AGM and slate of nominees to the membership no later than 14 days before the date of the AGM.
  
  - (6) The immediate Past President will oversee the election at the Annual General Meeting, including preparation and distribution of ballots at the meeting, collection and counting of votes and presentation of the results to the members at the meeting.
  
  - (7) Separate elections must be held for each office to be filled, except the position of Past President which will automatically be filled by the outgoing President.
  
  - (8) An election may be by acclamation, otherwise it must be by ballot.
  
  - (9) If a successor is not elected, the person previously elected or appointed continues to hold office. If the President continues to hold office, the existing Past President will also continue to hold her position.
- 23 (1) The directors may at any time and from time to time appoint a member as a director to fill a vacancy in the directors.
- (2) A director so appointed holds office only until the conclusion of the next annual general meeting of the society, but is eligible for re-election at the meeting.
- 24 (1) If a director resigns her office or otherwise ceases to hold office, the remaining directors must appoint a member to take the place of the former director.
- (2) An act or proceeding of the directors is not invalid merely because there are less than the prescribed number of directors in office.
- 25 The members may, by special resolution, remove a director, before the expiration of her term of office, and may elect a successor to complete the term of office.
- 28 The Directors shall not be entitled to any remuneration for their services on behalf of the Society.

**Part 6 — Proceedings of Directors (Executive Meetings)**

- 29 (1) The directors may meet at the places they think fit to conduct business, adjourn and otherwise regulate their meetings and proceedings, as they see fit.
- (2) The directors may from time to time set the quorum necessary to conduct business, and unless so set the quorum is a majority of the directors then in office.
- (3) The president is the chair of all meetings of the directors, but if at a meeting the president is not present within 30 minutes after the time appointed for holding the meeting, the vice president must act as chair, but if neither is present the directors

present may choose one of their number to be the chair at that meeting.

(4) A director may at any time, and the secretary, on the request of a director, must, convene a meeting of the directors.

(5) Board members will commit to a two-year term

- 30 (1) The directors may delegate any, but not all, of their powers to committees consisting of the director or directors as they think fit.
- (2) A committee so formed in the exercise of the powers so delegated must conform to any rules imposed on it by the directors, and must report every act or thing done in exercise of those powers to the earliest meeting of the directors held after the act or thing has been done.
- 31 A committee must elect a chair of its meetings, but if no chair is elected, or if at a meeting the chair is not present within 30 minutes after the time appointed for holding the meeting, the directors present who are members of the committee must choose one of their number to be the chair of the meeting.
- 32 The members of a committee may meet and adjourn as they think proper.
- 33 For a first meeting of directors held immediately following the appointment or election of a director or directors at an annual or other general meeting of members, or for a meeting of the directors at which a director is appointed to fill a vacancy in the directors, it is not necessary to give notice of the meeting to the newly elected or appointed director or directors for the meeting to be constituted, if a quorum of the directors is present.
- 34 A director who may be absent temporarily from British Columbia may send or deliver to the address of the society a waiver of notice, which may be by letter, email, or telex, of any meeting of the directors and may at any time withdraw the waiver, and until the waiver is withdrawn,
- (a) a notice of meeting of directors is not required to be sent to that director, and
  - (b) any and all meetings of the directors of the society, notice of which has not been given to that director, if a quorum of the directors is present, are valid and effective.
- 35 (1) Questions arising at a meeting of the directors and committee of directors must be decided by a majority of votes.
- (2) In the case of a tie vote, the chair does not have a second or casting vote.
- 36 A resolution proposed at a meeting of directors or committee of directors need not be seconded, and the chair of a meeting may move or propose a resolution.
- 37 A resolution in writing, signed by all the directors and placed with the minutes of the directors, is as valid and effective as if regularly passed at a meeting of directors.

## **Part 7 — Duties of Officers**

- 38 (1) The president presides at all meetings of the group and of the directors.
- (2) The president is the chief executive officer of the society and must supervise the other officers in the execution of their duties.
- 39 The vice president must carry out the duties of the president during the president's absence.
- 40 The secretary must do the following:
- (a) conduct the correspondence of the society;
  - (b) issue notices of meetings of the society and directors;
  - (c) keep minutes of all meetings of the society and directors;
  - (d) have custody of all records and documents of the society except those required to be kept by the treasurer;
  - (e) have custody of the common seal of the society;
  - (f) maintain the register of members.
- 41 The treasurer must
- (a) keep the financial records, including books of account with monthly record keeping presented at each board meeting, and
  - (b) render financial statements to the directors, members and others when required
  - (c) Supply financial records for the AGM based on a calendar year of January to December.
- 42 (1) The offices of secretary and treasurer may be held by one person who is to be known as the secretary treasurer.
- (2) If a secretary treasurer holds office, the total number of directors must not be less than 5 or the greater number that may have been determined under bylaw 24(2).
- 43 The past president is responsible for:
- (a) expertise on past activities and history of the society, and
  - (b) coordinating the annual process for members' voting of the following year's directors, to include the creation of a slate of candidates for election by the members at the annual general meeting and the supervision of the voting process at the annual general meeting.
- 44 In the absence of the secretary from a meeting, the directors must appoint another

person to act as secretary at the meeting.

**Part 8 — Seal (not required unless registered as a Society under the BC Society Act)**

- 45 The directors may provide a common seal for the society and may destroy a seal and substitute a new seal in its place.
- 46 The common seal must be affixed only when authorized by a resolution of the directors and then only in the presence of the persons specified in the resolution, or if no persons are specified, in the presence of the president and secretary or president and secretary treasurer.

**Part 9 — Borrowing**

- 47 In order to carry out the purposes of the society the directors may, on behalf of and in the name of the society, raise or secure the payment or repayment of money in the manner they decide, and, in particular but without limiting that power, by the issue of debentures.
- 48 A debenture must not be issued without the authorization of a special resolution.
- 49 The members may, by special resolution, restrict the borrowing powers of the directors, but a restriction imposed expires at the next annual general meeting.

**Part 10 — Auditor**

- 50 This Part applies only if the society is required or has resolved to have an auditor.
- 51 The first auditor must be appointed by the directors who must also fill all vacancies occurring in the office of auditor.
- 52 At each annual general meeting the society must appoint an auditor to hold office until the auditor is re-elected or a successor is elected at the next annual general meeting.
- 53 An auditor may be removed by ordinary resolution.
- 54 An auditor must be promptly informed in writing of the auditor's appointment or removal.
- 55 A director or employee of the society must not be its auditor.
- 56 The auditor may attend general meetings.

**Part 11 — Notices to Members**

- 57 A notice may be given to a member, either personally, by email or by mail to the member at the member's registered mailing or internet address.
- 58 A notice sent by mail is deemed to have been given on the second day following the



day on which the notice is posted, and in proving that notice has been given, it is sufficient to prove the notice was properly addressed and put in a Canadian post office receptacle. Email notices must be set up to request an acknowledgement.

- 59 (1) Notice of a general meeting must be given to
- (a) every member shown on the register of members on the day notice is given, and
  - (b) the auditor, if Part 10 applies.
- (2) No other person is entitled to receive a notice of a general meeting.

**Part 12 — Bylaws**

- 60 On being admitted to membership, each member is entitled to, and the society must give the member without charge, a copy of the constitution and bylaws of the society.
- 61 These bylaws must not be altered or added to except by special resolution.