



## **BYLAWS OF THE RALEIGH AQUARIUM SOCIETY (RAS)**

### **ARTICLE I: Name.**

The name of the Association shall be the Raleigh Aquarium Society (RAS).

### **ARTICLE II: Objectives.**

The objectives of the Association shall be to promulgate fellowship, information, education, conservation practices, humane treatment of captive aquarium animals, and the furtherance of knowledge of all aspects of the hobby of keeping and breeding marine and freshwater aquarium fishes, invertebrates, and plants.

### **ARTICLE III: Membership.**

**Section 1:** Regular membership in the Society shall be open to all persons of good will who accept the objectives of the Society, have paid the prescribed annual dues, and have been accepted by a simple majority vote of the members present at any regularly scheduled meeting. The regular member shall receive any patch, publication, or newsletter produced by the club as an ordinary function and shall have voting privileges.

**Section 2:** Family membership in the Society shall be open to any additional person in a member's immediate family living in the same household and is included in the membership cost of \$15.00 paid by the head of household. A family member shall receive any patch and shall have voting privileges, but shall not receive a newsletter or other publication produced by the Society as an ordinary function.

**Section 3:** Corresponding membership in the Society shall be open to any person of good will who accepts the objectives of the Society and shall have paid the prescribed dues, herein set at three fourths of the regular annual dues. A corresponding member shall receive no patch, nor have voting privileges, but shall receive all newsletters or publications produced by the Society as an ordinary function.

**Section 4:** Sustaining membership in the Society shall be open to all institutions, firms or their agents, who subscribe to the objectives of the Society and who have paid the annual prescribed dues, herein set at three times the regular membership rate of \$15.00. Sustaining members shall have no voting privileges and shall receive no patches, but will receive any newsletters or publications produced by the Society as an ordinary function. In addition, each sustaining member shall be entitled to display an advertisement of its membership in the Society's publications, as often as these appear during the sustaining member's period of membership.

**ARTICLE IV: Meetings, Outings and other Social Functions.**

**Section 1:** Regular meetings shall be held on the evening of the first Thursday of every month, unless there is a holiday. In the event of a holiday, the meeting will be held on the next available date, according to agreements with the host of the meeting place.

**Section 2:** Special meetings of the Executive Board, consisting of the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, may be called by any member of this Board. At such meetings the President shall act as Chairman.

**Section 3:** Special club meetings may be called by the President at any time.

**Section 4:** All substantive business must be voted on by the regular members at a regular meeting. Examples of substantive business are changes in the Bylaws, expenditures in excess of \$100.00, or the membership status of any individual, institution or firm, or the amount of dues, fees or other form of income required for the various forms of membership. All other business will be conducted by the Executive Board.

**Section 5:** Outings shall be scheduled by the Executive Board after consultation with the general membership at a regular meeting, at times and to places consistent with the objectives of the Society. Examples of these outings include dinners, parties, conferences, conventions, collecting trips, sightseeing trips, visits to other societies or to wholesalers of aquarium fishes, or to public meetings of the state legislature, or state or federal committees or commissions.

**Section 6:** The responsibilities, risks and expenses of all outings shall be borne by the participants of those outings.

**Section 7:** All meetings shall be conducted by Robert's Rules of Order unless stated otherwise by these Bylaws.

**ARTICLE V. Officers and Elections.**

**Section 1:** The officers constituting the Executive Board shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

**Section 2:** The Executive Board shall be nominated entirely by the members present at the regular January meeting.

**Section 3:** The Executive Board shall be elected from the nominees at the regular January meeting by the members present.

**Section 4:** The Executive Board shall assume office in March of each year and its term shall expire in February of each year. For all purposes, the terms of the Executive Board shall be considered to consist of one calendar year.

**Section 5:** No person shall hold more than one office on the Executive Board simultaneously.

**Section 6:** A person may succeed himself/herself in the same office for a consecutive term if renominated by the membership as outlined in Section 3 above.

**Section 7:** These rules, outlined within this article, shall apply only to the Executive Board and shall not apply to Committee Chairman.

**ARTICLE VI. Committees.**

**Section 1:** The President shall appoint annually or as necessary and with the approval of the Executive Board the Chairmen of the following standing Committees:

- (a) Program;
- (b) Membership;
- (c) Publications;
- (d) Industry Liaison; and
- (e) Breeder's Award Program.

**Section 2:** The President may appoint at any time a Chairman for an ad hoc committee for special projects or functions.

**Section 3:** The President may remove from Chairmanship, at any time and with the concurrence of the Executive Board, any Chairman for failure to conduct the duties of the Committee to the satisfaction of the Executive Board, or for conduct considered by the Executive Board detrimental to the reputation of the Society.

**ARTICLE VII. Amendments to the Bylaws.**

Any member may move to amend the Bylaws at any regular meeting. A motion to amend requires three-fourths approval by the members present at two consecutive regular meetings. Upon three-fourths approval of the motion to amend at each of the two consecutive meetings, the Bylaws shall be considered amended as of one month following the second vote.

**ARTICLE VIII. Vacancies in the Executive Board.**

Vacancies in the Executive Board shall be promptly filled by the appointment of a regular member, not currently a member of the Executive Board. Such vacancies shall be filled by a vote of the remaining members of the Executive Board. The term of such appointees to the Executive Board shall extend to the next calendar period, as if the appointee had been elected in the last election. No appointee to the Executive Board shall serve more than one year. However, an appointee to the Executive Board may run for office and serve in subsequent years following his appointment to the Board in accordance with the provisions of Article 5.

**ARTICLE IX. Removal of Members.**

Any member may be removed for conduct detrimental to the Society or its reputation by the following procedure.

- (a) Six regular members must present a petition in writing to the Executive Board requesting removal of the member and describing in detail the reasons for this request.
- (b) A copy of the petition shall be presented simultaneously to the member in question.
- (c) The member in question shall have one month to respond to the petition and shall have the opportunity to address the regular members and the Executive Board at the next scheduled meeting.
- (d) The Executive Board shall then vote to uphold or reject the petition for removal of the member in question, and shall so inform the membership.
- (e) Should the Executive Board support the petition, then the removal of the member in question shall be put to the general membership, where a vote of two thirds is required for removal.
- (f) Should the Executive Board deny the petition, the matter shall end, and may not be renewed for a period of at least one year, with regard to the reasons set down in the original petition.
- (g) A new petition may be brought at any time, provided the reasons described are different from those in the earlier petition and constitute a separate issue.

## **ARTICLE X. Rights of Members.**

**Section 1.** All regular members shall have the following rights and privileges:

- (a) Voting privileges;
- (b) Any regular publications and patches;
- (c) Opportunities to participate in all Society functions;
- (d) Right to petition the Executive Board; and
- (e) Right to serve on any standing or ad hoc committee, with the approval of the Committee Chairman.

**Section 2.** Rights of other members shall be as described in Article III, Sections 2, 3 and 4, as appropriate.

## **ARTICLE XI. Duties of Officers.**

**Section 1.** The President shall preside at all regular meetings and conduct the order of business, appoint Committee Chairman and such other ad hoc committees as are formed. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all appointed committees.

**Section 2.** The Vice President shall preside at all regular meetings in the absence of the President, and maintain close liaison with Committee Chairmen in order to assure prompt handling and dispatch of the duties and responsibilities of the Committee Chairmen.

**Section 3.** The Secretary shall be responsible for the minutes of all regular, executive and special meetings, and for distribution on a timely basis of all publications, notices and announcements to all eligible members or appropriate persons, and for the keeping of all records and archives of the Society, and for the storage of all Society literature and publications. It is the Secretary's responsibility to maintain records of memberships, although the duty shall fall to an appropriate Chairman. It is the Secretary's responsibility to distribute all newsletters and publications, although the duty shall fall to an appropriate Chairman.

**Section 4.** The Treasurer shall be responsible for the financial records of the Society, collection of dues and monies due the Society, accountability to the Executive Board of such monies and records, and payment of the financial obligations of the Society from funds accrued to the Society.

## **ARTICLE XII. Dissolution of the Society.**

In the event of the dissolution of the Raleigh Aquarium Society, all assets of the Society shall be donated to the Federation of American Aquarium Societies, Post Office Box 224, Portage La Prairie, Manitoba, Canada R1N 3B5.

Version 2 – Approved by the Raleigh Aquarium Society general membership present at the May and June regular monthly meetings in 2006. Effective as of July 1, 2006.