

THE NORTH AMERICAN GUILD OF CHANGE RINGERS CONSTITUTION

1. Name

The association shall be called the North American Guild of Change Ringers (herein called the Guild).

2. Purpose

The Guild shall:

- 2.1 seek to improve communication among ringers in North America;
- 2.2 seek to improve their standard of ringing;
- 2.3 seek to improve their contacts with ringers outside North America;
- 2.4 seek to extend the appreciation of change ringing among the general public;
- 2.5 abide by the rules of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

3. Membership

Membership in the Guild shall be open to all who support the purposes of the Guild. Resident Membership is open to ringers residing in North America who are sponsored by a Resident Member currently in good standing; other members residing in North America shall be Associate Members. Members not residing in North America shall be Non-Resident Life Members. The Guild may also elect Honorary Life Members who shall enjoy all the rights and privileges of Resident Members.

4. Dues

Membership in the Guild is contingent on payment of dues. Dues shall be set as provided for in the By-Laws. Honorary Life Members shall not be required to pay dues.

5. Officers

The Officers of the Guild shall be a President, a Treasurer, a Secretary, a Newsletter Editor, a Peal Secretary, an Education Officer, and a Public Relations Officer. All Officers must be and have been Resident Members of the Guild for a minimum of two (2) years continuously and immediately prior to standing for election. Officers shall be elected for one year terms. If an Office falls vacant, the Executive Committee shall fill the vacancy by appointing a Resident Member to serve until the next election.

6. Committees

There shall be an Executive Committee consisting of the Officers of the Guild. Other committees may be formed by the Executive Committee or by a General Meeting as necessary.

7. General Meetings

There shall be at least one General Meeting of the Guild each year (herein called the AGM) to be held alternately in the various ringing areas of the Guild. Anyone may attend a General Meeting, but only Resident Members may vote.

8. Elections

There shall be an Annual General Election. All Resident Members shall receive a ballot. Items shall appear on the ballot as provided for in this Constitution and in the By-Laws. The General Election may be omitted if there are no items for the ballot.

9. By-Laws

A set of By-Laws for the Guild shall be adopted to carry out the requirements of this Constitution and to further the purposes of the Guild. A proposal to change or add to the By-Laws may be submitted by any Resident Member. Such a proposal shall appear on the General Election ballot if approved by a majority of either the Executive Committee or a General Meeting. A proposal shall be adopted if it receives a majority of the votes cast.

10. Amendments

An amendment to this Constitution may be proposed by any Resident Member. A proposed amendment shall appear on the General Election ballot if approved by a 2/3 majority of either the Executive Committee or a General Meeting. Before appearing on the ballot, it shall be screened for consistency and language by the proposer and a representative of the Executive Committee. An amendment shall be adopted if it receives at least 2/3 of the votes cast.

11. Peals

A peal shall be credited to the Guild only if:

- 11.1 all members of the band are Guild Members, and at least half are Resident Members;
- 11.2 complete details of the peal, including the composition, have been received by the Peal Secretary.

12. Disbandment

Disbandment of the Guild may be proposed and shall be acted upon by the same process as that of an amendment to this Constitution. In case of disbandment of the Guild, its assets shall be given to the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers for use in promoting change ringing in North America.