

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society, Inc.

BYLAWS

Revised: August 8, 2023

A. Purposes, Policy

- A.1. The objectives of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society, hereafter called GARS, shall be the promotion of interest in Amateur Radio, and public service, the advancement of the radio art, the maintenance of fraternalism and a high standard of conduct among radio amateurs, the promotion of allied activities, and the encouragement of family participation in amateur radio activities.
- A.2. It shall be the policy of GARS to support other amateur radio groups with kindred objectives.
- A.3. The mailing address of GARS shall be selected and set by the Officers.

B. Membership

- B.1. Any person regardless of race, creed, national origin, or religious affiliation, and having an interest in Amateur Radio shall be eligible for membership in GARS.
 1. Full voting membership shall be available to recognized licensed amateur radio operators.
 2. Non-voting associate membership shall be available to other applicants.
 3. Associate members who become licensed amateurs shall, upon proper application, receive full membership privileges.
- B.2. Application for membership shall be submitted to the membership committee on a special form provided for that purpose. Each such application shall be accompanied by payment as specified in section F. of these bylaws. The membership committee shall approve or reject each application within 60 days of receipt. Applications approved by the membership committee may be rejected by the officers of the GARS. If the application for membership is rejected, the application and payment shall be returned to the applicant.
- B.3. Honorary Lifetime Memberships
 1. Honorary Lifetime Membership is more than enduring membership. It is recognition for a very select few eligible GARS members who meet the qualifications below:
 2. One Honorary Lifetime Membership may be given during each fiscal year. This is to be a special consideration and need not be an annual event.
 3. The person considered must be someone who has exhibited long term and continuous devotion, dedication and meritorious service to and on behalf of the GARS and Amateur Radio, and has contributed greatly to the advancement of the GARS and Amateur Radio.
 4. The name of the person to be considered shall be submitted to the President or Vice President. The submission must be signed by (3) GARS members in good standing and shall be accompanied by a written explanation as to why the suggested member should receive this unique award.
 5. Upon receipt of the submission, a Special Committee shall be formed. The Special Committee will decide whether the person submitted will be rejected, or will be recommended to the GARS membership. The Special Committee will be comprised of the President, Vice President, one other officer appointed by the President, and four (4) members appointed by the President who are not officers or committee chairpersons. The President will select the Special Committee Chairperson from these four members. The Special Committee will examine and discuss the recommendations. The Chairperson will report the decision to the membership at the next scheduled business meeting of the GARS.
 6. If the person suggested for Honorary Life Membership is approved by the Special Committee, a vote of the members present will be taken, with a majority vote being necessary for election to this select position.

7. If the person suggested for Honorary Life Membership is rejected, that person shall not be eligible for reconsideration for twenty-four (24) calendar months.
 8. A person receiving this honor shall be relieved from paying regular annual dues.
 9. This special award applies to individual memberships only. If the lifetime honoree has a spouse who is also a member of the GARS, the future dues for the spouse will be the difference between the amount for individual membership and the amount for family memberships.
 10. Honorary Lifetime Memberships are not an asset; they cannot be given, sold, traded, or assigned to another by the honoree.
 11. No refunds will be made for dues already paid.
- B.4. The Officers of the GARS shall have the power by the affirmative vote of all the Officers to forfeit the membership of any member, or the association of an associate, and to expel any member, for any conduct on his part, which is likely, in their opinion, to injure the welfare or character or harmonious operation of the club or its members, or for any other conduct in violation of the bylaws or established rules of the club. The Officers of the GARS shall be the sole judge of what conduct is likely to injure the welfare or character or harmonious operation of the club or its members, and what constitutes a violation of the bylaws or established rules of the Club, provided that if the vote be not unanimous, any person who is proposed for expulsion shall be notified and allowed an opportunity to be heard, in which event upon full consideration of the evidence, expulsion may be ordered upon by a majority of the Officers.

C. Officers

- C.1. The officers of the GARS shall be: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Program Manager.
- C.2. All officers of the GARS shall be full members.
- C.3. The regular election of officers shall be handled as follows:
 1. At the January meeting each year the President shall accept nominations from the floor. The nominations shall be printed in the February edition of the bulletin.
 2. Elections shall be held at the February meeting. Further nominations from the floor will be accepted. Each member shall vote for not more than one (1) nominee for each office.
 3. Any nominee receiving a majority of the votes cast shall be declared elected.
 4. A runoff election between the two nominees receiving the highest number of votes shall be held in the event that no nominee receives a majority of the votes cast on the first ballot.
 5. The order of election of officers shall be: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Program Manager.
- C.4. Special elections may be held at any regular meeting to fill vacancies which occur between regular elections. If a special election is to be held, a notice to this effect shall be published in the meeting announcement immediately preceding such election.
- C.5. Term of office for all officers shall be for one (1) year commencing at the adjournment of the February meeting following election and ending at the adjournment of the February meeting the following year, or until their successor has been elected. Officers elected at special elections shall assume office immediately and their term of office shall end at the adjournment of the February meeting next following.
- C.6. A motion to remove any officer must be presented at a regular meeting, and tabled to be voted on at the next regular meeting. The motion shall be printed in the Bulletin next following.

D. Duties of Officers

- D.1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the GARS and conduct same according to the rules adopted, he shall enforce due observance of the charter and of these bylaws, decide all questions of order, sign all official documents that adopted by the GARS, be an ex officio member of all committees, and perform all customary duties pertaining to the office of President.

- D.2. The Vice President shall assume all the duties of the president in the absence of the president and shall be an ex officio member of all committees.
- D.3. The Treasurer shall receive and receipt all moneys paid to the GARS; he shall keep an accurate account of all moneys received and expended; and he shall expend no club funds without prior authorization by the GARS or its officers constituting a business committee, except that :
1. Regularly recurring bills of the club shall be considered to be authorized expenditures, and
 2. The club may, by majority vote in a regular business session, empower him to expend club funds up to a stated amount for an extraordinary purpose in furtherance of club business without prior authorization.
- He shall give a report at each meeting of the income and outgo of the club funds for the past month, and he shall give a financial status of the GARS at such intervals as the club may from time to time see fit. He shall at the expiration of his term turn over everything in his possession belonging to the GARS to his successor.
- D.4. The Secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of all meetings, keep a roll of members in conjunction with the Treasurer, carry out all correspondence, thank in writing such persons, firms, or organizations obligating to the GARS by their favors, read communications at the meetings, and shall at the end of his term turn over everything in his possession belonging to the GARS to his successor.
- D.5. The Program Manager shall be in charge of the program portion of each regular general membership meetings of the GARS. It is his responsibility to schedule guest speakers to give presentations at the general membership meetings and thank each of them in writing.

E. Meetings

- E.1. Regular meetings shall be held once each calendar month at such place and time and at such time as the president shall order. A regular meeting may be canceled by the president providing a special meeting is called for, under section E.2 of these bylaws, within ten (10) days of the canceled meeting.
- E.2. Special meetings may be called by the president upon the written request of any five (5) members of the GARS, and for this purpose the President himself may sign such a request. Notices shall be sent to all members by the secretary informing them of the special meeting of the business to be transacted. Such notices shall be mailed in time to allow normal mail delivery, at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting. Only such business as is designated in the notice shall be transacted at the special meeting as provided in section E.1 of these bylaws, in which case any business may be transacted.

F. Finances

- F.1. Annual dues for the GARS shall be established in accordance with Section G of these bylaws.
1. The fiscal year for the purpose of finances shall be from July 1 through June 30 of the following year.
 2. The membership year shall be an annual period beginning when the applicant is accepted for membership and ending on the first of the following month, one year later. The membership year for renewing members shall be an annual period beginning at the expiration of the current membership and ending one year later. An applicant may pay for multiple membership years at one time.
 3. Youth Membership - Dues for members age 21 and younger are free. Proof of age must be shown to the membership chairman. The burden of proof is on the applicant. This membership is only available to individuals who are age 21 and younger.
 4. Senior Membership - Dues for members age 65 and older shall be \$15.00 per membership year. Proof of age must be shown to the membership chairman. The burden of proof is on the applicant. This membership is only available to individuals and all members in an immediate family who are age 65 and older.
 5. Adult Membership - Dues for members who do not qualify for Youth Membership or Senior Membership shall be \$30.00 per membership year. This membership is available to individuals and all members in an immediate family regardless of age.
 6. Special discounted membership pricing (including limited dues waivers) may be established by the Officers of the GARS to promote membership enrollment. Multiyear discounted memberships may also be established by the Officers of the GARS to promote membership retention.

- F.2. Any member whose dues have not been paid by the 30th day after the end of that member's current membership year shall be dropped from the membership, and shall lose all privileges attached to membership. Said ex-member may be reinstated in accordance with section B of these Bylaws.
- F.3. All newly licensed Amateurs may apply for a free one year membership. Proof of new Amateur license must be shown to the membership chairman. The burden of proof is on the applicant.
1. Membership must be applied for within 120 days of obtaining a new Amateur license.
 2. The applicant shall be subject to Section B.2, except the clause pertaining to dues.
 3. Membership will end on the first of the following month, one year later after acceptance of the applicant for membership.
 4. Membership may be continued in accordance with Section F.1 above.
- F.4. In any GARS sponsored event, the individual volunteer will not be compensated with the exception of expenses for materials that are approved by the GARS executive board.
- F.5. Approval of a GARS sponsored event, use of logo, or the name GARS (Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society) must be approved the membership and/or the executive board.
- F.6. Lifetime Membership
1. A licensed radio amateur can become a lifetime member with a one-time monetary payment.

Licensed radio amateurs who are 65 years of age or older, can make a one-time payment of one hundred and fifty (\$150.00) dollars. Proof of age required.

Licensed radio amateurs who are younger than 65 years of age, can make a one-time payment of three hundred and fifty (\$350.00) dollars.
 2. This payment can be made at any time, but no refund will be made for any dues that have been paid in the past.
 3. After the funds for the one time payment are credited to the GARS account, that lifetime member will not be required to pay any further regular club dues.
 4. There can be no refunds for lifetime membership.
 5. Lifetime memberships are not an asset; they cannot be given, sold, traded, or assigned to another person.

G. Amendments / Suspension of Bylaws / Rules

- G.1. These bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the GARS membership, or by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present at any meeting. The proposed amendment(s) is to be published in the newsletter and voted on at the next regular meeting. Proposals for amendments shall be submitted in writing and shall be read word for word by the secretary just prior to the voting.
- G.2. Roberts rules of order shall govern all proceedings of the GARS except in case of conflict with these bylaws in which case the bylaws will govern.
- G.3. A majority of members in good standing present at a meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of all business except as provided in section G.

H. Appointments / Committees

- H.1. The President shall have the power to appoint such committees as he deems advisable for the welfare of the GARS, and he shall have the power to dissolve such committees at any time.
- H.2. Immediately upon assuming office the President shall appoint a membership committee consisting of a chairman and two other members. It shall be the duty of this committee to carry out the functions detailed in section B.2 of these bylaws.

- H.3. Immediately upon assuming office the President shall appoint a Broadcast and Television Interference coordinator. It shall be the duty of this coordinator to give to the GARS members who request it, technical and physical aid in reducing cases of broadcast and/or television interference.
- H.4. Immediately upon assuming office the President shall appoint an Editor of the GARS Newsletter. The Editor of the GARS Newsletter shall be responsible for writing, publishing, and distributing a bulletin.
- H.5. The President shall appoint, subject to confirmation by the Club officers, a Trustee for the Club Station License. The Trustee shall be a current club member and shall be responsible for any and all matters pertaining to the club license. The use of the GARS call sign at any operation or event shall require prior notification and approval of the Trustee. The length of the Trustee's term shall be at the discretion of the President.
- H.6. The Vice President shall assist the President in appointing committee chairmen for any and all committees created by the President as requested by the President.

I. Board of Directors

- I.1. There shall be four (4) Directors of the GARS. Their duties will include the oversight of the general operation of the GARS, to serve as an advisory committee to the President, and such other duties as the President shall require.
- I.2. The Directors shall be the past immediate three (3) Presidents of the GARS and the Club Station License Trustee. If one or more of these Presidents cannot serve for any reason, the President shall appoint a director, subject to confirmation by the executive committee.
- I.3. The term of the Board of Directors shall be for one (1) year commencing at the adjournment of the February meeting following elections of new officers and ending at the adjournment of the February meeting the following year, or until their successor has been selected. Directors selected after the February meeting shall assume their duties immediately, and their term of office shall end at the adjournment of the February meeting next following.
- I.4. The Board of Directors shall report to the President.
- I.5. A director must be a member in good standing during the term of office.