



Rotary Club of La Crosse - Bylaws

Revised 9/14/2026

Bylaws of the Rotary Club of La Crosse, Inc.

Last Revised: September 14, 2026

Article I

Board of Directors

Section 1

The governing body of this club shall be the Board of Directors consisting of no more than twenty (20) members of this club, namely, nine (9) directors elected in accordance with Article I, Section 1, of these bylaws, in addition to the President, President-Elect, President-Elect Nominee, Secretary, Treasurer, the immediate Past President, Sergeant-at-Arms, Youth Protection Officer, and Rotary Works Foundation Liaison. All members of the Board of Directors have voting rights.

Section 2

Any member of the Board may be removed for good cause by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of a quorum of the Board, after at least five days' advance written notice to the Board member as to the time and place of the Board meeting where removal will be considered. Good cause for removal may consist of, but not be limited to, three absences during any fiscal Rotary year. The Board may find good cause for removal based on other reasons in its discretion.

Article II

Election of Directors and Officers

Section 1

At a regular club meeting one month prior to the last meeting of the calendar year for election of officers, the presiding officer shall ask for nominations by members of the club for President, President-Elect, President-Elect Nominee, Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant-at-Arms and three (3) members of the Board of Directors. The nominations may be presented by either the nominating committee or by members from the floor, as determined by the club. If the club utilizes a nominating committee, , such committee shall be appointed as the club may determine. The nominations shall be announced and published in the weekly newsletter for each office and shall be voted on at the annual meeting. The candidates for President, President-Elect, President-Elect Nominee, Secretary, Treasurer and Sergeant-at-Arms receiving a majority of the votes shall be declared elected to their respective offices. The candidates for director receiving a majority of the votes shall be declared elected as directors. The President-Elect and President-Elect Nominee elected in such balloting shall serve as a member of the Board in that capacity for the year commencing on the first day of July next following the election; and shall assume office as President and President-Elect respectively on the first day of July immediately following the year of service on the Board as President-Elect or President-Elect Nominee. In the event that no candidate for any position wins an outright majority of votes on the first ballot, the candidates who are tied for first place on the ballot shall draw straws in front of the membership to determine the winner with the person who draws the longest straw winning the election. Candidates not present do not draw straws.

Section 2

The officers and directors, together with the immediate Past President and Rotary Works Foundation Liaison, shall constitute the Board of Directors. Each person who is elected or appointed to said offices shall be deemed appointed to the office of director of this organization and said term shall expire when his term as President, President-Elect and President-Elect Nominee, Secretary, Treasurer, immediate Past President, Sergeant-at-Arms, or Rotary Works Foundation Liaison expires.

Each director shall serve in that capacity until a successor is chosen and assumes the duties of office. In addition, the at-large directors of this corporation shall be selected for staggered terms of three years each from the membership-at-large and voted on by said membership at the time and place of the annual meeting of the Rotary Club of La Crosse.

After the transition to staggered terms as required by these by-laws, three (3) new directors will be elected annually to fill the vacancies of directors at-large whose three year terms have expired. Thereafter, when the term of office of any director selected by the membership-at-large expires, the membership-at-large shall elect other directors whose terms shall be for three (3) years.

Section 3

The terms of the offices and directors shall be as follows:

President, President-Elect and President-Elect Nominee – the term of office shall be for a non-renewable period of one (1) year commencing the first day of July following the election of said officer. The term of President,

President-Elect or President-Elect Nominee shall not exceed one (1) year, commencing the first day of July following the election of said officer, except where an officer is required to serve to fulfill an unexpired term.

Secretary and Sergeant-at-Arms – The term of office shall be for a period of three (3) years, commencing the first day of July following the election of said officer, and is renewable once.

Rotary Works Foundation Liaison – The term of office shall be for a period of one (1) year, commencing the first day of July following the election of said officer.

The Treasurer – The term of office shall be for a period of three (3) years, commencing the first day of July following the election of said officer, and is renewable indefinitely.

Youth Protection Officer – The term of office shall be for a period of three (3) years, commencing the first day of July following the election of said officer, and is renewable indefinitely.

Directors-at-large – Except as provided herein, the term of office of the nine (9) at-large directors shall be for a non-renewable period of three (3) consecutive years. All terms of office for a director of this corporation chosen from the membership-at-large shall be for a term of three (3) years. Except where a director is appointed to fill a partially expired term, no member-at-large director shall serve for more than three (3) consecutive years in that capacity, but may continue to serve on the Board as one of the enumerated officers noted above. Length of club membership is not a prerequisite for consideration for board membership. Directors can be reconsidered for board membership after a three (3) year period of separation from the board.

Section 4

A vacancy in the Board of Directors or any office shall be filled by action of the remaining members of the Board.

Section 5

A vacancy in the position of any officer-elect or director-elect shall be filled by action of the remaining members of the Board of Directors.

Article III

Election of Members to the Rotary Works Foundation

Section 1

At a regular club meeting one month prior to the meeting for election of officers, the presiding officer shall ask for nominations from club members for four (4) members to serve on the Rotary Works Foundation. The nominations may be presented by a nominating committee or by members from the floor, by either or by both, as the club may determine. If it is determined to have a nominating committee, such committee shall be appointed as the club may determine. The nominations duly made shall be announced and printed in the Coulee Report for each office and shall be voted on at the annual meeting. The candidates for directors receiving a majority of the votes shall be declared elected.

Those directors so elected shall serve for a three (3) year term and no director shall serve more than two (2) consecutive three-year terms. The elections will be staggered to allow one or two directors elected each year.

Section 2

Vacancies. If a vacancy occurs, it is the responsibility of the president to appoint a replacement to fill the position to the end of the remaining term.

Article IV

Duties of Officers

Section 1

President. It shall be the duty of the President to preside at meetings of the club and Board, represent the club at the district level, work with Club Administrator to coordinate the work of the club and to perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board.

Section 2

President-Elect. It shall be the President-Elect's duty to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of the club, to attend President-Elect Training, to attend the Rotary International Conference and to perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the President or the Board. It shall be the President-Elect's duty to preside at meetings of the club and Board in the absence of the President. The President-Elect's responsibility is to maintain good working relationships with each committee chair in alignment with the club's strategic plan.

Section 3

President-Elect Nominee. It shall be the President-Elect Nominee's duty to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of the club, to attend President Elect Training, and to perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the President or the Board. In the absence of the President and President-Elect, the President-Elect Nominee shall fulfill the above duties. The President-Elect Nominee shall be the program chair. And to perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board. The President-Elect Nominee's responsibility is to maintain good working relationships with each committee chair in alignment with the club's strategic plan.

Section 4

Secretary. It shall be the Secretary's duty to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of the club, provide assistance at weekly club meetings, take Board meeting minutes, and to perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the President or the Board.

Section 5

Treasurer. It shall be the Treasurer's duty to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of the club, to oversee the club's finances including revenues and expenses, assets and debts, to issue monthly financial reports for Board of Director meetings, to work with the Board to keep the organization financially sound in the present and future, and to perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the President or the Board.

Section 6

Past President. It shall be the Past President's duty to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of the club for one year following the term of their presidency. The Past President may preside over club meetings in the absence of the President. The Past President shall chair the Nominating Committee.

Section 7

Sergeant-at-Arms. It shall be the Sergeant-at-Arms' duty to serve as a member of the Board of Directors, to assist at weekly club meetings, to perform such other duties as pertains to the role of Sergeant-at-Arms as may be prescribed by the President or the Board.

Section 8

Youth Protection Officer. The Youth Protection Officer shall be appointed by the President. It shall be the duty of the Youth Protection Officer to chair the Youth Protection Committee and together with that committee to develop, implement, and monitor District 6250's Youth Protection Policy for our Club. The Youth Protection Officer must have satisfactorily completed District 6250's Youth Protection Training and successfully completed the required Affidavit and background check.

Section 9

Rotary Works Foundation Liaison. The Rotary Works Foundation Liaison shall be appointed by the President from the current Rotary Works Foundation members from Rotary Club of La Crosse. It shall be the duty of the Rotary Works Foundation Liaison to serve as a member of the Board of Directors and an information conduit between the Rotary Club of La Crosse and Rotary Works Foundation acting as a proactive advocate with each on behalf of the other.

Article V

Meetings

Section 1

Annual Meeting. An annual meeting shall be held on the last regular membership meeting in December of each year, at which time the election of officers and directors to serve for the ensuing year shall take place.

Section 2

The regular weekly meeting of this club shall be held on Thursdays at 12:00 PM. Attendance may be in person, by telephone, online or via other interactive communication. We encourage regular attendance at meetings as well as participation in service and fellowship. Due notice of any changes in or cancelling of the regular meeting shall be given to all members of the club.

All members except an honorary member or member excused by the Board of Directors of this club are encouraged to be present for at least twenty-four (24) Rotary sponsored activities (such as Rotary Club meetings, service projects, committee meetings, and social activities) annually.

Section 3

One-third of the membership shall constitute a quorum at the annual meeting and at regular meetings of this club.

Section 4

Regular meetings of the Board shall be held on the second Monday of each month. Special meetings shall be called by the President, whenever deemed necessary, or upon the request of two (2) members of the Board, due notice having been given. Cancellation of meetings shall be called by the president, at their discretion.

Section 5

A simple majority of the Board members shall constitute a quorum of the Board.

Article VI

Fees and Dues

Section 1

The admission fee of \$50.00 shall be invoiced upon completion of orientation, before the applicant can qualify as a member. An additional \$10 donation to the Rotary Works Foundation is suggested.

Section 2

The membership dues shall be determined by the Board of Directors on an annual basis. Dues shall be payable quarterly on the first day of July, October, January and April. Dues shall include a subscription to the *ROTARY Magazine*, delivered in print or electronically.

Article VII

Method of Voting

The business of this club shall be transacted by voice vote including the election of officers and directors, except when there is a contested election in which case the vote for the contested office shall be by written ballot.

Article VIII

Committees

Section 1

Club committees are charged with carrying out the annual and long-range goals of the club based on the four Avenues of Service. The President-Elect, President and immediate Past President should work together to ensure continuity of leadership and succession planning. When feasible, committee members should be appointed to the same committee for three years to ensure consistency. The President-Elect is responsible for appointing committee members to fill vacancies, appointing committee chairs and conducting planning meetings prior to the start of the year in office. It is recommended that the chair have previous experience as a member of the committee. Refer to the website for current committees.

Section 2

Additional ad hoc committees may be appointed as needed.

Section 3

The President shall be ex officio a member of all committees and, as such, shall have all the privileges of membership therein.

Section 4

Each committee shall transact its business as is delegated to it in these bylaws and such additional business as may be referred to it by the President or the Board. Except where special authority is given by the Board, such committees shall not take action until a report has been made and approved by the Board.

Section 5

Each chair shall be responsible for regular meetings and activities of the committee, shall supervise and coordinate the work of the committee and shall report to the President Elect on all committee activities.

Article IX

Duties of Committees

Section 1

Rotary Club Committee Structure: This club committee structure is based on the recommended Rotary Club Bylaws. Club committees are charged with carrying out the long-range goals of the club. Club committee chairs report all committee activities to the club's Board. The committees must support the purpose of at least one of the roles described below:

Section 2

Club Service: These committees should conduct activities associated with the effective operations of the club. Also to provide the public with information about Rotary and to promote the club's service projects and activities.

Section 3

Community Service: These committees should reflect the need and action needed for community and area environmental, humanitarian, hunger, homelessness issues.

Section 4

New Generations Service: These Committees will work within the community to interact with students and youth, to provide opportunities for advancement, challenges and leadership.

Section 5

International Service: These committees will be to plan, identify and implement activities and world community service projects.

Section 6

Additional ad-hoc committees may be appointed on an annual basis depending on club size and goals.

Article X

Leave of Absence

Upon written application to the Board, setting forth good and sufficient cause, leave of absence may be granted excusing a member from attending the meetings of the club for a specified length of time.

(Note: Such leave of absence does operate to prevent a forfeiture of membership; it does not operate to give the club credit for the member's attendance. Unless the member attends a regular meeting of some other club, the excused member must be recorded as absent except that absence authorized under Article VII, Section 2 (b) of the Constitution is not computed in the attendance record of the club.)

Article XI

Finances

Section 1

The Club Administrator or Treasurer shall deposit all funds of the club in the financial institution to be named by the Board.

All expenses shall be paid by check or with a Rotary Club credit card. Checks and credit card purchases shall be signed by the Treasurer and/or the Administrator or another authorized officer. A thorough audit of the club's financial transactions shall be made by a certified public accountant or other qualified person shall be made every three years.

Section 2

Officers having charge or control of funds shall give bond as may be required by the Board for the safe custody of the funds of the club, cost of the bond to be borne by the club.

Section 3

The fiscal year of this club shall extend from July 1 to June 30 and the collection of member dues shall be divided into four (4) quarterly periods extending from July 1 to September 30, October 1 to December 31, January 1 to March 31 and April 1 to June 30. The payment of per capita dues and magazine subscription revenues to Rotary International shall be made yearly on July 1 and January 1 on the basis of club membership on those dates.

Section 4

At the beginning of each fiscal year the Board President shall prepare or cause to be prepared a budget of estimated income and estimated expenditures for the year, which, having been agreed to by the Board, shall stand as the limit of expenditures for the respective purposes unless otherwise ordered by action of the Board.

Article XII

Method of Electing Members

Section 1

The membership proposal form for a prospective member, proposed by an active member of the club, shall be submitted to the Board in writing, through the Club Administrator, at the recommendation of the Membership Committee. The proposal for the time being shall be kept confidential except as otherwise provided in this procedure.

Section 2

The Board shall request the Membership committee to consider and report to the Board on the eligibility of the proposed member and shall investigate and report to the Board on the eligibility of the proposed member from the standpoint of character, business and social standing, and general eligibility.

Section 3

The Board shall approve or disapprove the recommendations of the Membership committee and shall then notify the sponsor, through the Club Administrator, of its decision.

Section 4

If the decision of the Board is favorable, the sponsor then will receive a letter from the Administrator stating that the prospective member has been recommended. The prospective member will receive information on attendance, fees and the Application Form to be filled out and signed by the prospective member. The signed Application Form is then returned to the Administrator. The prospective member's name will be published in the weekly club newsletter, giving the membership ten (10) days to inform the Board of Directors of any objections.

Section 5

If no written objection to the proposal, stating reasons, is received by the Board from any member of the club within ten (10) days following publication of the name of the prospective member, the prospective member, as prescribed in Article V of the Bylaws, shall attend New Member Orientation, and be considered elected to membership. If any objection has been filed with the Board, it shall consider the same at any regular or special meeting of the Board and shall ballot on the proposed member. If the members of the Board cast no more than two (2) negative votes in attendance at such regular or special meeting, the proposed member, upon payment of the prescribed admission fee, shall be considered elected to membership.

Section 6

Following the member's election to membership, the prospective member will meet with an Orientation Committee member for a brief orientation. The sponsor is encouraged to also attend. The Club Administrator shall report the member's name to Rotary International. The member shall be formally introduced as a new member at a regular meeting of the club.

Article XIII

Resolutions

No resolution or motion to commit this club on any matter shall be considered by the club until it has been considered by the Board. Such resolutions or motions, if offered at a club meeting, shall be referred to the Board without discussion.

Article XIV

Amendments

These bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting, a quorum being present, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all members present, provided that notice of such proposed amendment shall have been electronically mailed to each member at least ten (10) days before such meeting. No amendment or addition to these bylaws can be made which is not in harmony with the club constitution and bylaws of Rotary International.

Article XV

Means of Conducting Board of Directors Business

It shall be acceptable practice that the Board of Directors transact club business through electronic communications including but not limited to emails, telephone, computer messaging, computer polling and other reasonably reliable and appropriate methods of communications, at their discretion, provided any notice requirements are met. Any actions required or permitted to be taken at a meeting of the Board of Directors may be transacted outside such a meeting through electronic communications.

Revised and Adopted 2003 Revised and Adopted 2006 Revised Committees 2009

Revised Youth Protection Committee 8/25/2009

Revised Sergeant-at-Arms and Rotary Works Foundation Liaison 1/13/2010 Revised La Crosse Rotary Foundation to Rotary Works Foundation 3/13/2010

Revised and Adopted 2016

Revised and Adopted 2022

Revised and Adopted 2022

Revision and Adopted 2026