

Bylaws of the Shore Democrats

Article 1

Name

The Shore Democrats (also referred to as “the organization”) is officially defined and registered under Delaware law as a Political Action Committee.

Article 2

Purpose and Objectives

1. Educate and inform members about current Democratic events, policies legislation and elections.
2. Promote Democratic values and camaraderie among members through monthly meetings.
1. Expand numbers of both dues-paying members and like-minded individuals who attend on an ad hoc basis.
2. Help elect Democrats to local, county, state, and national offices.
3. Collaborate with the Democratic Party, and the Representative Districts in Sussex County.

Article 3

Membership and Dues

1. Membership is open to all persons 18 years of age or older, who subscribe to the purpose and objectives set forth in Article 2.
2. Annual dues shall be collected at the beginning of each calendar year or in-full at the time a new member joins. Dues from **new** members received in the last quarter of the calendar year, however, shall be considered paid and carried forward to the following calendar year.
3. Official voting members of the organization are those who have fully paid their dues for that year and whose name appear on the formal membership list. Members whose annual dues remain unpaid by the end of the first quarter of the current year will lose their voting privileges and shall be removed from the formal membership roster until payment is made.
4. Change in the amount of membership dues shall be recommended by the Executive Committee and made effective 30 days after approval of the general membership.
5. Members and interested non-members will receive regular communication through a separate on-line email notification system.
6. Each member will be provided a printed ID to be worn at all meetings.
7. Non-members may be charged an additional amount for their lunches.

Article 4 Executive Committee

1. The Executive Committee shall be comprised of the following officers: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Social Media Coordinator, Political Director, and not more than two at-large directors.
2. Terms for officers have a duration of two years with elections occurring in November of even years. Officers will assume their duties on January 1.
3. The immediate past President shall serve as ex-officio, non-voting member of the Executive Committee as needed for up to one year.
4. In the event of a vacancy in an elective office, the Executive Committee will fill the vacancy by appointment for the balance of that officer's term.
5. The President shall appoint a nominating committee by August of an election year to present a slate of officer candidates at the October meeting of the general membership. Additional nominations from the floor may be made at the November meeting immediately prior to the membership vote for officers.
6. The Executive Committee is empowered to conduct the business of the Shore Democrats at regularly scheduled and ad hoc meetings as called by the President. A quorum for decisions to be made requires the presence of at least four Executive Committee members.

Article 5 Duties of Officers

1. The President shall preside at all general membership and Executive Committee meetings and shall be an ex officio member of any standing or ad hoc committees. The President (or designee) shall represent the Shore Democrats at outside meetings, forums, and events of interest or importance to the organization. The President (or designee) is responsible for ensuring that general membership meetings are informative and that necessary email communications are sent. The President (or designee) is responsible for upholding the contracts arranged with meeting venues and the like. The President is responsible for assuring the organization adheres to Delaware Campaign Finance laws.
2. The Vice President shall serve as President in the absence of the President and carry out other duties as designated.
3. The Treasurer shall account for all funds received or raised by the organization, deposit such funds in a bank account approved by the Executive Committee and maintain complete records. The Treasurer shall in collaboration with other member(s) of the Executive Committee collect membership dues and maintain the official roster of dues paying members. This roster will be used to determine those members who have voting privileges in matters covered by these bylaws. The Treasurer is responsible for maintaining and the timely submission of necessary Campaign Finance reports to the Office of the State Election Commissioner.

4. The Secretary shall take minutes of all Executive Committee and general membership meetings and provide a written report of the minutes at the next scheduled meeting. The Secretary, at the direction of the President or the Executive Committee, shall communicate with the media, information on Shore Democrats' scheduled meetings. The Secretary or designee gathers responses from members regarding general meeting attendance numbers and meal selections.
5. The Social Media Coordinator is responsible for adding new members and interested parties to the on-line email communication system and for its maintenance. The Social Media Coordinator is responsible for taking photographs at all meetings and for updating the Shore Democrats website and other media outlets, including Facebook.
6. The Political Director shall be responsible for keeping the membership informed of offices up for election in Sussex County and statewide every election cycle and informing the Board of candidates running for those offices. The Political Director shall also make recommendations on scheduling candidates to speak at meetings as well as make recommendations for endorsement, and contributions to candidates subsequently endorsed.
7. At-large directors shall serve as members of the Executive Committee and shall perform those duties as assigned by the President or the Executive Committee.
8. The Executive Committee may authorize expenditures up to an amount of \$500.00 per transaction, without approval from the general membership, for expenditures beyond normal regular occurring obligations recognized by the President or Treasurer.

Article 6

General Membership Meetings and Voting

1. General membership meetings of the Shore Democrats shall be held on the third Wednesday of every month unless circumstances require cancelation or date change.
2. Voting members shall vote to approve candidates for officer positions, bylaw changes, dues changes, expenditures in excess of \$500.00 and for allocation of monies collected to support Delaware Democratic candidates for elected office.
3. A majority of voting members present shall constitute a quorum at a general membership meeting for voting purposes. Voting shall be by raise of hands unless secret ballots are requested by the majority of official voting members present.
4. Members are encouraged to suggest names of potential speakers and topics of interest for future meetings and to volunteer for committees and other organization activities.

Article 7

Endorsement and Political Activities

1. The Executive Committee may adopt public positions on public policy and election issues with the approval of a majority of the Executive Committee.
2. Shore Democrats may make campaign contributions consistent with Delaware and federal campaign finance laws. Recommendations for those candidates to receive endorsement and/or a campaign contribution as well as the dollar amount of said contribution will be made by the Executive Committee and will be approved by a majority vote of voting members present at a general membership meeting.
3. Shore Democrats may take an active role in the campaigns of Democratic candidates and work with the Democratic Party and its local affiliates in voter registration, fund raising, and get-out-the-vote efforts.
4. Any Democrat registered to run for political office may request an opportunity to address the membership at a regularly scheduled general meeting and to request the organization's support.
5. The Shore Democrats may choose to endorse a candidate during a primary race if it is agreed to by a majority of members.
6. The Shore Democrats may choose to contribute to a candidate during a primary race if it is agreed to by a majority of members.

Article 8

Bylaw Changes

1. Bylaws will be reviewed and amended, if necessary, by the Executive Committee during the first year of the term or at any time considered necessary. Amended Bylaws become effective after they are proposed at one general membership meeting and approved at the next general membership meeting by a majority of voting members present.

Article 9

Dissolution Statement

1. Any action on the part of the Executive Committee to dissolve the Shore Democrats must be approved by a majority of voting members present at a meeting called to specifically consider such action, and for which meeting written notice has been issued to all members eligible to vote in accordance with the provisions of these bylaws.
2. In the event of dissolution of the Shore Democrats, the Executive Committee shall, after resolving all liabilities, convey remaining funds to the Democratic organization(s) within Delaware.