

BYLAWS OF THE
HUMANISTS OF SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

*ADOPTED, MARCH 15, 2015
REVISED SEPTEMBER 18, 2018*

Article 1 – Humanists of Southeast Michigan

The name of this organization is the Humanists of Southeast Michigan, a Membership Chapter of the American Humanist Association, a non-profit educational organization.

Article 2 – Purpose

The purpose of the Humanists of Southeast Michigan is to promote the ideals of the “Humanist Manifesto - Humanism and Its Aspirations” that express an ethical, democratic, naturalistic, life stance that challenges irrationality, promotes critical thinking and the separation of church and state. We present a system of Humanist ethics that is a rational alternative to those based in religion and encourage connections among thoughtful people in our community.

Article 3 – Membership

Any person shall be eligible for voting membership who is in general accord with the above-stated purpose and a member in good standing with the American Humanist Association. There shall be an annual fee to be determined by the Board of Directors for membership in the Humanists of Southeast Michigan.

Article 4 – Government

The association shall be governed by its members and, between meetings by a Board of Directors consisting of a President (or no more than two Co-Presidents), Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Recruitment Chairperson (9/18/2016), Communications Chairperson and one or more other members, all elected by the membership for two year terms. The Immediate Past-President shall also serve on the board.

A Board member may be relieved of duties by a vote of the members of the Board.

The business of the Board shall be conducted according to rules of its own choosing.

Article 5 - Meetings

Regular meetings of the membership and the Board shall be held at times and places set by the Board and the membership. Special meetings, social events, public programs, etc., may be scheduled by the Board or by a committee it appoints. Notice of meetings or other business of the Board may be conveyed by mail, electronic or telephonic communication. A quorum for the transaction of business at Board meetings shall be a majority of elected Board members. A quorum may be established by electronic, telephonic or in-person attendance.

Article 6 – Elections

A nominating committee shall be appointed by the President in September with the election to be held in January. The nominating committee shall nominate (with the consent of the nominee) one or more persons for each position to be filled. Additional nominations may be made before the January elections either at Board meeting or Membership meeting. Members will be notified by December 1 of each year by mail, electronic or telephonic communication of the Elections Meeting in January.

An election committee appointed by the Board or at a Membership meeting shall check, count and report on the election. In the event there is no competition for a specific officer position, there is no need for balloting. Election shall be by vote of a majority of those voting for an office.

Article 7 – Amendments

Amendments of these bylaws may be proposed by vote of a majority of the Board members or by those present and voting at a Membership meeting, or by petition of 20% of the members of the association. Notice of a proposed amendment shall be sent by mail, electronic or telephonic communication to the paid membership at least ten days prior to voting by members at a regular or special membership meeting. Enactment of all amendments shall be by vote of a majority of the members voting at a regular membership meeting.

Article 8 – Limitations

No part of the association's resources shall be devoted to influencing the election of anyone to public office. No part of the association's resources shall be used to benefit individual members. No provisions of these bylaws shall be interpreted in any manner to conflict with the laws of our land required to maintain a tax-exempt non-profit organization.

Article 9 – Termination

If and when the Humanists of Southeast Michigan chapter is dissolved or otherwise terminated, its assets shall be distributed to the American Humanist Association, or other non-profit organizations which are tax exempt under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code.