

STATEN ISLAND BUSINESS FRIENDS BY - LAWS

MISSION STATEMENT

To organize a cohesive group of individuals with businesses located or doing business on Staten Island for the purpose of networking for the development of our individual businesses.

BY-LAWS OF GROUP

1. Membership

- A. The group is open to all potential members of the Staten Island business community without exclusion due to race, color, creed, gender or national origin.
- B. Sponsorship by a good-standing member is the sole method of initiating membership.
- C. A candidate for membership must complete a designated application and review the by-laws given to the applicant by the sponsor.
- D. The Executive Committee shall conduct an initial review of the membership application at the very next Executive Committee Meeting. If approved, the application shall proceed to review and consideration by the full membership at the next general meeting. If voted to be accepted, the applicant shall be informed by his or her sponsor or an Executive Committee member to attend an orientation at the next Executive Committee Meeting. Also, they shall immediately be eligible to attend the next general meeting. If membership is declined, based on issues raised in either the Executive Committee Meeting or general meeting, the process shall be halted. If there is a prospective member whose profession is in the same category as a current member, the current member shall have the right of first refusal **to object at or prior to the confirmation vote but not after.** Ultimately, if membership is not declined but some uncertainties exist, the matter may be referred back to the Executive Committee.
- E. Any member in the same trade or profession as the candidate for membership has the right to ask for a negative vote of the general membership. Great deference will be given to the position of the existing member in opposition to the candidate.
- F. The general membership will vote on the candidate if, and only if:
 - i) The sponsor does not withdraw the recommendation.
 - ii) **The applicant has submitted a completed application.**
 - iii) A quorum of one third of the membership is present for the vote.
- G. Membership in the group is granted if two thirds of the membership present at the meeting votes in the affirmative in regard to the candidate. Each member has one and only one vote.

2. General Tenets of Group

- A. All membership in other organizations by a member or his or her spouse must be disclosed to the membership.
- B. After three absences from bi-monthly meetings during any calendar quarter, the membership of the offending member may be rescinded. Further, any member who fails to attend 70% of the bi-monthly meetings in any calendar year shall have his/her membership rescinded. The ~~president~~ **executive board** shall have the right to excuse a member from bi-monthly meetings for good cause. An excused absence shall not count as an absence under the provisions of this paragraph.
- C. The failure to pay dues for three consecutive months may result in the rescinding of membership. The Treasurer shall advise the member personally of the failure to pay dues.
- D. As to Sections B and C above, rescinding of membership shall be the exclusive prerogative of the executive Committee vote.
- E. Guests are not allowed at meetings except in case of an invited speaker or passive guest who is sitting in for or with an existing member. Executive committee must be notified of guest attending.
- F. Voting can be by written absentee ballot.
- G. No member shall be a member of another group whose primary purpose is networking within Richmond County.
- H. The Executive Committee, at its discretion, has the authority to spend up to \$1,000.00 on any project with a \$2,000.00 cap annually.
- I. Standing committees have the authority to spend \$100.00.
- J. Board Committees:
 - By-Laws Committee
 - Membership and Welcome
 - New Members Research
 - Exceptional Performance Award
 - Event Social Committee

May 14, 2002: Any member can send someone from their company that can represent them.

October 15, 2002: The newly elected officers will be installed at the first meeting in November.

November 12, 2002: New members will be credited \$5.00 per month up to \$60.00 towards the dinner dance.

2004

Proposed Amendments to By-Laws

1. Although no member of SIBF shall be a member of another networking club, no restriction on the member's business partners or co-workers shall be imposed by SIBF.
2. Members who intend to send representatives must be in good standing. They must be current in dues and maintain at least 70% attendance at the bi-monthly meetings. ~~Attendance of representatives at meetings will be limited to no more than twice per quarter.~~
3. Membership by a large corporate or business entity may have a designated individual as a representative. ~~That individual shall be treated as the member of SIBF.~~ In the event there is a change in employment between the individual and the corporate entity, ~~it shall be left to the discretion of SIBF to re-evaluate the membership. SIBF may choose, via the application process, to accept membership of the individual or the corporate entity depending on what SIBF deems to be in its interest.~~ **the dues payer is considered the member.**
4. Categories of membership must be specific and clearly described in the membership application. An individual category is based on what is the actual major emphasis of the business. Peripheral or minor business involvements are not sufficient to hold or block a related category. For example, a sign business may not block an advertising business although advertising is involved in the sign business.
5. Members may bring prospective ~~guests~~ **members** to general meetings for an evaluation period not to exceed two meetings. The prospective member or sponsor will be responsible for the cost of breakfast during guest visits. **The executive board has power and authority to supplement the member.**