

CONNECTIONS
CONNECTING RETIRED WOMEN
Founded 2018

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Approved and adopted 02/20/2024

ARTICLE I

Name

The name of this organization shall be "Connections: Connecting Retired Women" (heretofore referred to as Connections).

ARTICLE II

Purpose

Connections is a group of women who are retired or transitioning into retirement. We strive to provide social interactions that will offer support, educational opportunities, cultural events, community service and enjoyment for our membership. Our goal is to provide opportunities for women to meet others with similar interests through activities that foster interaction with new friends. It shall be non-profit, non-political, and non-sectarian.

ARTICLE III

Sponsorship

This organization is sponsored by the First Presbyterian Church of Ridgewood as a community service.

ARTICLE IV

Organization Size

The Executive Board reserves the right to limit organization size. There may be reasons to temporarily place a cap on membership due to concerns regarding our ability to effectively provide participation opportunities to members. These limitations include physical meeting space, insufficient inventory of games, cards, etc. and our desire to keep a small activity group size. There shall be limitations imposed on the number of members accepted/introduced monthly.

ARTICLE V
Membership/Sponsoring Members

Section 1.

The membership shall be open to retired or semi-retired women who are interested in Connections activities and would like to participate in them.

Section 2.

A sponsoring member shall submit to the Membership Committee/Chairman a completed application along with the dues check for the prospective member. A sponsoring member may sponsor one prospective member a year except members of the Executive Board and Membership Committee who may sponsor more than one applicant as needed. To sponsor a prospective member, a woman must be a member for a year.

Section 3.

Completed applications of eligible candidates for membership shall be processed by the Membership Committee /Secretary in chronological order of receipt. A number of applicants shall be accepted each month at the discretion of the Executive Board. Excess applicants shall be placed on a waiting list and introduced at a subsequent meeting in the chronological order their applications were received. New applicants shall attend a general membership meeting at which time they will be introduced and become official members.

Each candidate for membership, with the filing of her application, shall pay an application fee equal to the dues for one year. Applicants shall be formally introduced during the first mandatory business meeting they attend and shall receive a membership card/name tag at that time. Applicants shall not be permitted to attend activities until they are introduced at the meeting. They may then vote and participate in all available Connections activities.

Section 4.

Each candidate for membership, with the filing of her application, shall pay dues for one year. The membership secretary will notify new member when she will be introduced at the general membership meeting. The new member must be accompanied by her sponsor. Once introduced at the meeting the new member will be entitled to participate in all Connections activity.

Application fees/dues submitted before November 1 will be considered as dues for the current year. If application fees/dues are submitted after November 1, the payment will constitute dues for the remainder of the current year and the following year.

Section 5.

Dues are payable by December 1. Members whose dues are not paid on or before February 1 of the following year will be removed from the roster.

Section 6.

A member may be expelled from the organization for just cause to be determined by a majority vote of the Executive Board.

**ARTICLE VI
Officers and Their Duties****Section 1.**

There shall be a President, a First Vice President, a Second Vice President, a Treasurer, and a Membership Secretary and a Recording Secretary. There will also be an additional officer who shall be a member of the First Presbyterian Church and will act as Church Liaison. All officers shall be members in good standing of the organization. They shall be elected to serve for a term of one year and shall take office on the third Tuesday of December.

Section 2.

The Executive Board shall consist of (1) the four most recent past presidents who are willing and able to participate and (2) all the current officers. It shall meet at the pleasure of the President or on petition of three or more members of the organization to consider specific questions regarding the welfare of the organization. All other past presidents shall be members of the Senior Advisory Board, which may be called into session at any time by the Executive Board to counsel them on issues of importance to the organization.

Section 3.

When Executive Board discussions should need to be confidential, the committee member will state at the start of the conversation it is a confidential discussion. That confidence is required to be kept by members of the Executive Board. Any breach of this provision may result in dismissal from the Board and the organization.

Section 4.

Elections shall be held at the November membership meeting which shall be the third Tuesday in November. Officers will be elected by a majority of the membership present at the meeting.

Section 5.

A vacancy in any office occurring between the annual meetings shall be filled by the Executive Board.

Section 6.

The Officers will perform their assigned duties as outlined in the Connections' Policies, Practices and Procedures document.

Section 7.

An Officer may be removed from office for just cause to be determined by a majority vote of the Executive Board and the Senior Advisory Board.

Section 8.

Signatories of financial accounts are limited to four members of the Executive Board: President, First Vice President, Second Vice President and Treasurer.

**ARTICLE VII
Committees**

Ad hoc committees may be appointed from time to time by the President.

**ARTICLE VIII
Meetings**

Section 1.

Membership meetings shall be held at least every other month on the third Tuesday, the Executive Board and the membership will determine if monthly meetings are necessary. The Executive Board assembles as needed before the membership meeting. Membership meetings will be held at the First Presbyterian Church of Ridgewood.

Section 2.

Matters coming before a membership meeting shall be decided by a majority of the members present.

**ARTICLE IX
Protecting Members' Personal Information**

While it is necessary to collect and share personal data with activity leaders and executive officers, members' personal information is only for use for Connections activities. Violation of this provision will result in loss of Connections' membership.

**ARTICLE X
Activities**

Activities shall be as diverse as necessary to fulfill the varied interests of the membership. Expenses in connection with an activity shall be the responsibility of the participants. In no manner should any activity be used to further the personal business interests of any member.

ARTICLE XI
Dues

Section 1.

Dues are determined by the Executive Board. They are non-refundable.

Section 2.

The fiscal year of this organization begins on January 1. Dues are to be paid by December 1 of the prior fiscal year.

ARTICLE XII
Gifts

Section 1.

A memorial donation in an amount to be set by the Executive Board may be made to any organization designated by the survivor of a deceased member.

Section 2.

Contributions as approved by the Executive Board shall be made to the sponsor in appreciation for the use of the premises.

Section 3.

Other gifts or donations may be made from time to time as determined by the Executive Board. Any donation will be reported to the membership.

ARTICLE XIII
Amendments

The Constitution and By-Laws may be amended or revised at any membership meeting by a majority vote of the members in attendance provided such proposed amendments or revisions shall have been presented to the membership at one previous regular meeting

ARTICLE XIV Dissolution

Dissolution of Connections may be effected only if such a recommending resolution by a majority vote of the Executive Board is submitted in writing to the membership at a membership meeting and is approved by a majority vote of the membership present and passed at the following membership meeting. In the event of dissolution of Connections, any monies remaining in the treasury, after payment of all debts, shall be donated to the First Presbyterian Church.