

# **SLOW FOOD SONOMA COUNTY NORTH**

## **VISION**

Food is a common language and universal right. We envision a world in which all people can eat food that is good for them, good for the people who grow it, and good for the planet.

## **MISSION**

Seeking to create dramatic and lasting change in the food system, we work to reconnect those in our community with the people, traditions, plants, animals, fertile soils, and waters that produce our food. We work to inspire a transformation in food policy, production practices, and market forces so that they ensure equity, sustainability, and pleasure in the food we eat—food that is good, clean, and fair.

## **GOALS**

1. Support and promote our local farmers and their products.
2. Support the products and activities of those who are preserving (or inventing) local and regional traditions in the growing and preparation of food.
3. Present educational programs and events that enhance member and community knowledge about sustainable farming and food production, biodiversity, food traditions, and the benefits of eating food that is fresh, seasonal, and locally produced.
4. Create events that take place at table to increase the sense of community among members of the Sonoma County North convivium, members of fellow Sonoma County convivia, and members of the community.
5. Engage with community projects and organizations that promote food justice and equity in bringing food from farm to table.
6. Develop and broaden relationships and exchanges with others who share the guiding values of Slow Food.
7. Develop or engage in projects that reach beyond Sonoma County to foster cultural exchange and support the food production and educational activities of struggling communities in the United States and elsewhere.

# Bylaws

## ***Article 1: Name and Logo***

- 1.A The organization shall be called Slow Food Sonoma County North.
- 1.B Slow Food Sonoma County, North will use the name and logo of Slow Food in accordance with the Slow Food name and logo agreement signed by the Board Chair in the Chapter's Annual Report.

## ***Article 2: Purpose***

- 2.A Slow Food Sonoma County North is a local convivium of the international Slow Food movement. A convivium, also called a chapter, is a tool for implementing the Slow Food mission on a local level and therefore the grassroots expression of the movement.
- 2.B Slow Food Sonoma County North engages the local community in supporting and promoting local, sustainable food and food traditions and advocating for good, clean and fair food for all people.

## ***Article 3: Membership***

- 3.A Membership to Slow Food Sonoma County North is open to all.
- 3.B Membership is official once an individual has paid his or her membership fee to Slow Food USA.
- 3.C Membership is terminated once an individual does not renew by paying the annual dues. A member in clear conflict with the principles and aims of Slow Food can be expelled by the national President.
- 3.D Members have voting privileges at chapter meetings.

## ***Article 4: Meetings***

- 4.A Slow Food Sonoma County North will hold at least one general membership meeting each year.
- 4.B The Convivium Board and any sub-committees of Slow Food Sonoma County North will call meetings at least four times per year or on an as-needed basis.

## **Article 5: Internal Structure**

5.A The Convivium Board of Slow Food Sonoma County North will guide the general direction of the group, ensuring the projects and activities of the convivium are consistent with the ideas and values of Slow Food.

5.B Board meetings will be held monthly or bi-monthly. The Board meeting agenda shall be sent to Board members in advance via email, or can follow a regular agenda of reports from each Board member on activities and plans. Decisions by the Board will be generally made by consensus of those attending. A quorum is defined as half plus one.

5.C The Convivium Board member term will be two years. Each member's term begins with the month when he or she first attends a Board meeting, and ends in the same month two years later. Board members may serve a maximum of two terms (4 years), provided there is confirmation by election at the annual meeting. Members who have served for four consecutive years are eligible for re-election after a minimum two-year hiatus.

5.D The Convivium Board is composed of seven members, some of whom hold the following positions:

5.D.1 The **Chair** liaisons with the Slow Food national office, the local regional governor and leaders in the region. He/she produces agendas and runs general meetings, acts as one of the signing authorities for the convivium bank account, acts as primary contact for the group, oversees the activities of the convivium, and ensures that the convivium is meeting all annual requirements of Slow Food USA (including the annual report and tax filing).

5.D.2 The **Vice Chair** acts in the leader's stead when the leader is unavailable, and oversees the sub-committees.

5.D.3 The **Treasurer** tracks the income and expenditures of the convivium, acts as one of the signing authorities for the convivium bank account, prepares an annual budget for the convivium, and oversees fundraising activities.

5.D.4 The **Secretary** produces minutes for convivium Board meetings and the Annual Membership meeting. Minutes are available to convivium members upon request.

5.D.5 The **Membership Chair** maintains and updates the convivium membership list each month, and seeks ways to recruit and retain members.

5.D.6 The **Events Committee Chair** oversees committee members and other events leaders in planning and executing the convivium's events.

5.D.7 The **Communication Chair** oversees committee members in the content and maintenance of the convivium's website, Facebook, newsletter, and other media.

5.E The **Chair** may appoint and form sub-committees to deal with specific projects, activities, events, publications, and the website. If the Board Chair does not appoint a sub-committee chair, a new committee may wish to informally elect a committee leader as the primary contact for and coordinator of the project, activity, event, publication, or website.

### ***Article 6: Elections***

6.A The Chair of the convivium Board should be a member who has served on the Board.

6.B The Board oversees election proceedings, ensures fairness of process and outcome, answers questions about the election, and collects and counts the votes.

6.C The Board will announce the election to all members via email several weeks before the election is to occur.

6.D Elections will be held at the Annual Membership meeting.

6.E. Annually, the Board shall appoint a Nominating Committee consisting of a previous Board member, a current Board member, and an active convivium member. The Nominating Committee solicits, vets, and presents a slate of new candidates for vacant positions on the Board. In any one year, the Board shall strive to have its turnover limited to approximately one-third of its number.

6.F Voting quorum is all those members present at the Annual Meeting. Members not present may send a ballot with their vote and signature.

6.G Voting can be done by secret ballot, electronic vote, or voice vote.

6.H A candidate wins the seat if he/she receives half the votes plus one.

6.I A Board vacancy occurring prior to the Annual Meeting may (but is not required to) be filled with a qualified candidate by a simple majority vote of the existing Board. Any new Board member(s) installed in this manner shall be formally elected at the next Annual Meeting.

**Article 7: Amendments**

7.A Any member may submit a proposal for the amendment of these bylaws at any time, but at least 60 days before the Annual Meeting.

7.B The amendment must receive the support of the majority of those members who attend the Annual Meeting.

**Article 8: Ratification**

8.A Before ratifying the bylaws, Slow Food Sonoma County North will send a draft to its membership for comments.

8.B A simple majority of members present at the Annual Meeting must support the bylaws for them to be ratified and come into effect.

8.C The bylaws will be posted on the convivium website and be available to members upon request.