

# **Sonoma County North 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 chapter of the international Slow Food movement. A chapter, 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 Chapter 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 Chapter Board of Slow Food Sonoma County North will guide the general direction of the group, ensuring the projects and activities of the chapter 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 Chapter 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 four terms (8 years), provided there is confirmation by election at the annual meeting. Members who have served for eight consecutive years are eligible for re-election after a minimum one-year hiatus.

5.D The Chapter 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 chapter bank account, acts as primary contact for the group, oversees the activities of the chapter, and ensures that the chapter is meeting all annual requirements of Slow Food USA (including the annual report and tax filing).

5.D.2 The **Vice or Co 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 chapter, acts as one of the signing authorities for the chapter bank account, prepares an annual budget for the chapter, and oversees fundraising activities.

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

5.D.5 The **Membership Chair** maintains and updates the chapter 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 chapter's events.

5.D.7 The **Communication Chair** oversees committee members in the content and maintenance of the chapter'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 chapter 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.