

# Statutes of the association “Les Amis de Folleterre”

## **TITLE 1. INTRODUCTION**

### **Article 1. Name and creation**

This corporation is formed among the members accepting the present statute as an association named LES AMIS DE FOLLETERRE directed under the law of 1 July 1901 and the present statute.

### **Article 2. Goals**

This organization’s goals are:

- to organize a structure and activities to allow its members to gather around the themes proposed by the Association, especially friendship, equality, respect, companionship, and international encounters;
- to organize activities to promote among its members values in harmony with nature and the respect of the natural world;
- to manage the group’s collective resources to allow for gatherings of members in a natural setting chosen by the association.

### **Article 3. Registered address**

The address of the registered seat of the association is Ternuay-Melay-et-St-Hilaire. It may be changed by a decision of the Steward Circle.

### **Article 4. Activities**

The goals of the Association are achieved by the following activities:

- publications, courses, conferences, working meetings,
- any initiative being able to help to achieve the goals of the Association,
- any purchase of goods and real estate within the frame of the goals or the capability to contribute to that purpose,
- the ongoing or occasional sale of any products or services within the frame of the goals or the capability to contribute to that purpose.

### **Article 5. Resources**

The Association has as its resources:

- membership dues;
- sale of goods or fees for services rendered;
- capital reserved from savings in the annual budget cycle;
- gifts;
- grants from other organizations;
- government subsidies from the State, region, department, commune, and/or public institutions;
- interest and revenue from the goods owned by the Association;
- the value of the goods produced by the Association according to the law 85-698.

## **TITLE II. ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT**

### **Article 6. Composition of the Association**

The Association is composed of:

- community members,
- active members,
- the Steward Circle, made up of active members known as stewards,
- other committees with specific tasks, as designated by the or the Steward Circle.

### **Article 7. Community members**

Community members are physical persons who participate in events organized by the Association and may attend official meetings of the Association. Community members support the Association and the events it organizes and meet any other requirements set in the Internal Rules.

### **Article 8. Active members**

Active members are physical persons who can participate in the governance of the Association. Active members are by definition community members.

To become an active member, a community member must:

- agree to made decisions by consensus as defined in Article 13,
- have attended at least one event organized by the Association,
- have made a request for membership that was approved by the process defined in the Internal Rules,

-and meet all other requirements set by the Internal Rules.

Active membership expires after 365 days or at the next Great Circle. Membership may be renewed at any time.

Active membership is revoked when:

-a member quits,

-a member dies,

-the Steward Circle agrees that revocation of membership is in the best interests of the Association.

### **Article 9. Great Circle**

The Great Circle is an annual in-person meeting of the Association's membership organized by the Steward Circle whose purposes are to:

-discuss the state of the Association, its activities, and its properties,

-communicate the activities of the Steward Circle and potential steward's pledges,

-examine and approve a provisional budget for the following year,

-examine and approve large projects, as defined in the Internal Rules,

-give general direction to the Steward Circle regarding the areas of its mandate,

-initiatives outside of the mandate of the Steward Circle,

-examine and approve the adoption of or changes to the Internal Rules, if necessary.

A provisional agenda for the Great Circle is prepared by the Steward Circle and announced to the active membership at least one month in advance.

The Great Circle may be attended by all community and active members, but only active members can participate in decision-making as defined by the Internal Rules.

The Great Circle is quorate if at least seven active members are in attendance. If the Great Circle is not quorate, the present members will decide the conditions, agenda, and dates of the next Great Circle. The decision will be submitted to the Steward Circle for implementation.

Any internal matter regarding membership and stewardship may be discussed and decided upon by the Great Circle, including accepting or rejecting membership and stewardship applications if necessary.

All decisions are made by consensus, as defined in Article 13.

## **Article 10. Extraordinary Great Circle**

The purpose of an Extraordinary Great Circle is to discuss issues that cannot be addressed at an ordinary Great Circle or by the Steward Circle. An Extraordinary Great Circle may be called by the Steward Circle or by 50% of the active membership to address issues that require the pressing attention of the entire Association.

An Extraordinary Great Circle is required for the following decisions:

- sale or abandonment of any real property of the Association,
- changes to the Statutes,
- dissolution of the Association,
- any situation requiring the attention of the membership of the Association that cannot be addressed by the Steward Circle and cannot wait for the next ordinary Great Circle.

An Extraordinary Great Circle can occur at any time, including the same day as the Great Circle.

Decisions are made by consensus as described in Article 13. At least seven active members must be present for decision-making. If consensus cannot be reached on a matter of immediate importance, then a decision can be validated by a 75% majority of active members present.

## **Article 11. The Steward Circle**

The Association is administered collegially. The Steward Circle, made up of stewards, is the college of administrators. The stewards have an equal voice in the Steward Circle.

The Steward Circle is invested with the necessary powers to act and can act in any circumstance in the name of the Association. It can designate any of its members to represent the Association in any civil act. Each of its members can be empowered to formalize any declaration or obligation necessary for the functioning of the Association with a decision by the Steward Circle. A steward can act on behalf of the Association only if so empowered by the Steward Circle or the Internal Rules.

The Steward Circle is the body that represents the Association before the law. In the case of a legal action, the members of the Steward Circle in charge at the moment of the facts will be collectively and in solidarity responsible before a court of law.

Any active member may offer to be a steward at the Great Circle. Stewards are expected to commit time and energy to fulfilling the Steward Circle's responsibilities. The Great Circle has the power to reject an offer of stewardship. Offers of stewardship end at the following Great Circle and may be renewed.

Active members may be co-opted as stewards outside of the Great Circle with the consensus of the Steward Circle. These stewards must make an offer of stewardship at the next Great Circle to remain in the Steward Circle.

Every member of the Steward Circle can freely decide to leave it at any moment. In the case of serious misbehavior of one of its members, the Steward Circle can exclude that member in a process defined by the Internal Rules.

The Steward Circle has the following responsibilities that it may delegate in part or in whole when appropriate:

- facilitating the internal organization the Association,
- performing the Association's administrative work and representing the Association in civil affairs,
- administering, managing, maintaining, and developing the Association's properties,
- helping community members prepare and realize the Association's events,
- facilitating communication between community members,
- any other responsibilities assigned by the Internal Rules.

Decisions by the Steward Circle are made by consensus as defined in Article 13. The frequency of Steward Circle meetings, their formats, and details about their process (including quorum) are defined by the Steward Circle.

#### **Article 12. Other committees**

The Great Circle or the Steward Circle may create other committees for specific tasks.

#### **Article 13. Consensus decision-making**

Consensus decision-making is defined as any group decision-making process in which group members develop and consent to a decision in the best interest of the group. This process emphasizes the need for communication, clarity, and solidarity among the group's members.

The Internal Rules may define the details of this process.

#### **Article 14. Accessibility of Records**

The Steward Circle is responsible for making records and documents pertaining to the Association's activities available to active members. Documents that must be made available to active members include:

- all records of Great Circle and Steward Circle meetings,
- internal documents produced under Article 15,
- contracts and official documents of the Association.

Personal information collected by the Association will not be disclosed without consent. This information includes but is not limited to civil names, contact information, images, information regarding financial contributions.

#### **Article 15. Internal Documents**

The Association is empowered to produce additional internal documents to clarify and supplement these Statutes.

These documents include the Internal Rules. The Internal Rules define the internal processes of the Association in order to facilitate the general functioning of the Association. The Internal Rules are adopted and modified at a Great Circle and must be evaluated by the Steward Circle prior to adoption.

These documents include the Steward Circle Operational Procedures Extravaganza. This defines the internal processes of the Steward Circle, including the frequency of Steward Circle meetings, their formats, and quorum, in order to facilitate the work of the Steward Circle. The Steward Circle Procedures may be adopted and modified by the Steward Circle.

#### **Article 16. Amendments of the Statutes**

Changes to the Statutes must be evaluated by the Steward Circle and approved by an Extraordinary Great Circle before implementation.

### **TITLE III. DISSOLUTION**

#### **Article 17. Dissolution**

A decision to dissolve the Association can only be made at an Extraordinary Great Circle.

In the event of dissolution, the Extraordinary Great Circle will name one or several liquidators who will be in charge of the liquidation of the goods and determine their powers. The members of the association may not receive any part whatsoever of the property of the association. The assets of the Association will be obligatorily transferred to one or many associations pursuing similar goals and who will be chosen by the Extraordinary Great Circle or the Steward Circle.