

BYLAWS

WEDDINGS OF SARASOTA, INC. EFFECTIVE 1-1-15

FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year shall begin on Jan 1 and end on Dec 31.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

An annual meeting shall be held in the last quarter of each year to conduct formal business. The Board of Directors shall present a budget and recommend amount set for annual dues for the upcoming year. Also, election of the Directors/Officers shall take place at this meeting and become effective January 1st of the upcoming year. A simple majority vote by the members present is required to approve the budget and elect Directors/Officers.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

Weddings of Sarasota consists of four (4) counties; Sarasota, Manatee, Desoto and Charlotte. To be a member, the business address must be physically located within these counties.

Full Members and Associate Members must attend a minimum of five (5) meetings per membership year. (Evening “social events” held in addition to the regular monthly meetings shall count as an official attendance meeting.) If attendance requirements are not met, membership rights are canceled and the category slot may be replaced with a new member. Those whose membership rights have been canceled may reapply after a period of six months. During that period, they may not attend meetings. Hosting/Breakfast fees are mandatory each monthly meeting for attending members and guests.

Membership is non-transferable. If a business is sold, the new owner must apply for membership and pay full dues. Dues/fees, once paid, are non-refundable and non-transferable for any reason.

Applicants that would be categorized as “Multiple Businesses Under One Dominant Name” shall not be accepted as members. (Ex: A business offers Bridal Gowns, Coordination and Florist.) Each individual business is welcome to apply (or re-apply) for membership according to the rules defined under “New Members” in the Bylaws.

BRIDAL SHOWS

All members are required to participate in the annual bridal show as an “exhibitor” or “contributor.” The cost will be determined by the board. (It is optional for associate members to actively participate in the show, however it is mandatory to contribute financially as a “contributor.”) Failure to pay the participating or contributing fee by the due date will be cause for a monetary penalty followed by immediate dismissal from the group. If additional bridal shows are held in the same year, participation will be optional and there will be no mandatory financial obligation for non-participants. Refunds are not granted for any reason.

DUES

The annual amount for dues is presented and voted on during the annual general membership meeting held during the last quarter of each year. Dues shall be paid annually by each member to help cover the cost of mailing, printing, advertising, promoting, or whatever the Board of Directors deems is an acceptable and reasonable expense for the group. A base fee will be set for a primary category. One additional category may be

chosen as an option for an additional fee. Failure to pay dues by the due date determined by the Board of Directors for said membership year will be cause for a monetary penalty, possible omission from the upcoming brochure and membership termination. Dues, once paid, are non-refundable for any reason. See the attached "Membership Responsibility Form" for more detailed information.

CATEGORIES

A maximum of six (6) vendors per category are permitted in the group. The ability to add or delete a category is reserved unto the Board of Directors. In addition to the (6) vendors in a category, there may be a maximum of (4) associate members.

Full members may be listed in our brochure and website within their own category(s). Their websites may be linked to www.weddingsofsarasota.com Associate members may be listed in our brochure and website below the listings of full members. Only the business name and email address may appear and listings must be identical in both.

If an opening becomes available in a full membership category, an associate member may opt to fill the slot upon paying the difference in dues. Eligibility is presented on a seniority basis.

NEW MEMBERS

To be a member, the business must be physically located within one of the following counties: Sarasota, Manatee, Desoto and Charlotte.

A request to become a new member must be preceded by attending one "visitor" meeting as a sponsored guest by an existing member. After the first meeting, the board will invite candidate to a short interview at the board meeting. Once the board determines eligibility, the candidate will be invited back for a second meeting. If candidate chooses to join, he/she will receive a membership package at second meeting which will ultimately be submitted for board review and vote.

Requirements necessary to be considered for membership:

- a. A minimum of one year in business in Florida
- b. Present a copy of an occupational license (If applicable)
- c. Provide three references (your member sponsor plus 2)
- d. Service the bridal industry
- e. Applicable categories must be open to be eligible
- f. Pay dues. General membership dues apply from March 1 thru the end of Feb of each year. A new member joining between March thru September will pay full dues good thru February of the following year. A new member joining between October thru February will have dues prorated for that time period and be required to pay full dues for the following year at the same time.

A final decision to be accepted/denied as a new member will be made by the Board of Directors by a simple majority vote of those present.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS/OFFICERS

The business and affairs of the group shall be managed by a Board of no less than seven (7) and no more than thirteen (13) Directors/Officers; Officers include President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer. There may be nine (9) Directors at large.

Directors/Officers shall be elected at the annual general membership meeting held in the last quarter of each year by a majority vote of the members present (or written proxy) and will become effective January 1st of the following year. One vote may be cast per/business. (Associate members have no voting privileges.)

To serve on the board, one must be a member in good standing for a minimum of one year. Associate members are not eligible to serve on the board. To become an Officer of the Board, the member must have served on the Board for a minimum of one (1) year. The term for the President is a maximum of four (4) years. The immediate past President shall become an exofficio member of the board.

BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEETINGS

A quorum for a board meeting shall consist of no less than seven (7) Directors/Officers. All action taken by the Board shall be by a simple majority vote of those present unless stated otherwise in the bylaws. Directors shall hold meetings a minimum of once per quarter and as often as they deem necessary. Whenever a Board Member is absent, the Board of Directors may delegate his or her powers and duties to any other Director/Officer on a temporary basis by proxy.

VACANCIES OF BOARD DIRECTORS/OFFICERS

When a vacancy occurs due to resignation or otherwise, the position will be temporarily appointed by the Board of Directors for the remainder of the year,

REMOVAL OF A BOARD DIRECTOR/OFFICER

A Director/Officer may be removed from office by the unanimous vote of the Board of Directors whenever in their judgement it is in the best interest of the group.

AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS

The power to appeal, amend or repeal the bylaws is reserved unto the Board of Directors/Officers. An affirmative vote of not less than seven (7) of the board members shall be necessary to exercise that power.

PRESIDENT (Linda Shepard) _____ DATE _____
VICE PRESIDENT (Bobbi Hicks) _____ DATE _____
SECRETARY (Peg Pluto) _____ DATE _____
TREASURER (Susan Quarmby) _____ DATE _____

