

# ROANOKE VALLEY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY



## CONSTITUTION



Ratified May 31, 1988 Amended May 1, 2008 and February 1, 2024

**Article I: Name**--The name of this organization is the "Roanoke Valley Astronomical Society." In the following Articles, references to the "Society" or to the "RVAS" shall refer to the Roanoke Valley Astronomical Society. The Society is constituted as a not-for-profit organization.

**Article II: Purposes**--The purposes of the Roanoke Valley Astronomical Society are scientific and educational and are directed toward the advancement of the understanding and appreciation of astronomy and related sciences among the Society members and the public at large.

**Article III: Bylaws**--BYLAWS shall be established for the purposes of governing the operation and administration of the Society. The method of adopting and amending the BYLAWS shall be specified in the BYLAWS.

**Article IV: Membership**--Membership in the Roanoke Valley Astronomical Society shall be open to all persons interested in the purposes of the Society. Membership shall be granted to those persons who apply for membership and for the period of time for which they pay the dues in accordance with the BYLAWS. Membership may be revoked for just cause by a 2/3 vote of those voting from the total membership under procedures established in the BYLAWS. Each member shall have one vote on all matters brought before the Society for action. Honorary Membership may be conferred by the Society in the manner described in the BYLAWS.

**Article V: Officers**--The officers of the Roanoke Valley Astronomical Society shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and two Officers At Large. The terms of office, the qualifications of candidates, and the method of selection of the officers shall be as specified in the BYLAWS of the Society.

**Article VI: Management**--The President shall be the principal officer of the Society and shall preside at all meetings of the membership at which he/she may be present. The duties of the President shall be those customary to that office and as described in the BYLAWS. To assist the President in the management of the Society, an Executive Committee shall be formed which consists of the officers and the most recent past President willing and able to serve. The Executive Committee may act for the Society between society meetings and shall be responsible for planning the activities of the Society and for recommending actions to the full membership.

**Article VII: Functions**--In order to carry out the stated purposes, the Society may hold meetings, sponsor conferences, collect, hold and disburse funds, buy, own, and sell property and conduct such other activities which, in the opinion of the membership, are appropriate to its purposes.

**Article VIII: Liability**--Each member shall be individually responsible for any physical and/or material damages which that member may cause to the Society's property, other persons, and the property of other persons, while participating in the activities of the Society, which are not covered by the Society's liability insurance, if any. For those members under eighteen years of age, their legal guardian(s) shall be responsible. The Society divorces itself from any responsibility for the unsanctioned actions of its members.

**Article IX: Amendments**--Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by a majority vote of the Executive Committee or by a petition signed by five percent of the membership. A ballot shall be distributed by mail within 30 days after an amendment is proposed. The ballot to be returned to the Secretary shall be accompanied by a statement of the amendment proposed, one statement in support of the amendment by the sponsors, and one statement in opposition, if one exists. The ballot distribution shall be at least 30 days in advance of the date designated for counting the ballots. An affirmative vote of two thirds of those voting shall be required to adopt an amendment.

**Article X: Ratification**--This Constitution shall be submitted to the membership in the same manner as described for an amendment in Article IX. An affirmative vote of two thirds of those voting shall be required for ratification.