

**Rossica Society of Russian Philately
Organized 1929**

I would like to apply for membership in the Rossica Society, subject to its Constitution.

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address to be used for all mail:

E-mail address: _____
May we publish your e-mail address? (Y) _ (N) _
Telephone: _____
May we publish your telephone number? (Y) _ (N) _

Languages (Check as appropriate)
Read Write Willing to translate

I collect
Indicate country and/or type of collection

You must submit at least one of the following: APS number **OR** Two Rossica member recommendations
OR At least two philatelic references (societies, dealers, etc.)

Philatelic Societies

APS Number _____

Philatelic References (dealers, others)

Or Others

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Proposed By: _____ Date: _____

Seconded By: _____

Check **ONLY** one:

I prefer to receive the journals:

- via Internet download - ()
- on CD ROM ()
- paper copy ()

If paper copy is selected, then select one of the following:

- bound ()
- 3-hole ()
- Unbound. ()

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Membership dues are \$25 (US) for the first year

Membership dues submitted with this application cover only the year of acceptance into the Society. Annual renewal applies to all subsequent years at a rate established by the Rossica Executive.

Applications must be accompanied by remittance covering dues. Payment can be made with a check drawn on a US bank or a money order made payable to **Rossica**, or PayPal.

If PayPal is used (sales@rossica.org), please add \$1.50 to cover fees.

Membership and distribution of Society publications begin upon tentative acceptance into the Society. This application **and** membership dues should be mailed to:

Michael Gutter
P. O. Box 20305
Carson City, NV 89721
USA

Date Received: _____ Date Formally Accepted: _____

Date Tentatively Accepted: _____ Membership Number: _____

CONSTITUTION
“Rossica”

SOCIETY OF RUSSIAN PHILATELY

The CONSTITUTION
of
THE ROSSICA SOCIETY OF RUSSIAN PHILATELY

ARTICLE I - CONSTITUTION

SECTION 1: This Constitution outlines the basic regulations of the “Rossica” Society of Russian Philately. It shall be treated as the legal instrument governing conduct and activities of the Officers and members of the Society and shall be considered as such upon approval by referendum vote, of all members in good standing, and by members joining the Society thereafter.

SECTION 2: This Constitution may be amended as follows:

- a) Proposed amendments may be submitted in writing to the Secretary.
- b) Such proposed amendments shall be passed on to the Board of Directors for study.
- c) After review of the proposed amendments (Article III, Section 7), the Board of Directors shall forward the proposal to the President for approval. If the President disapproves the amendment(s), the Board can overturn his decision with a unanimous vote.
- d) Only after review by the Board and approval by the President or by Board action shall the proposed amendment be printed in ballot form in the next edition of the Journal or Bulletin for study by the Regular membership prior to the next general meeting of the Society.
- e) The amendments must receive the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the Regular members in good standing voting in such elections before they shall be considered as adopted and a part of this Constitution.

SECTION 3: The name “Rossica” and “Rossica Society of Russian Philately” are the exclusive property of the Society. Use thereof by unauthorized groups or individuals shall be resisted so far as may legally be possible.

ARTICLE II - MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1:

- a) Membership in the Society is open to all persons regardless of sex, creed, color, religion, or national origin, eighteen (18) years of age or older or sponsored by a Regular member in good standing, of legal responsibility and good moral character (except as provided for in subsection b hereof). Persons who advocate the violent overthrow of Constitutional government by force or other illegal means shall not be eligible for membership, and if members, shall be denied any of the rights or privileges of membership and expelled from the Society.
- b) Persons who the legal system has determined to be a problem, e.g., people serving time in a correctional institution, shall not be eligible for membership until such time as the legal institution that incarcerated them determines they are permitted to return to society and not be on parole.

SECTION 2: Membership in the Society shall be divided into three classes: (a) Tentative Members, (b) Regular Members, (c) Honorary Members.

- a) Tentative and Regular membership is open to all persons who meet the requirements of Section 1 hereof.
- b) The President may grant Honorary membership status to any individual other than an elected officer if such benefits the Society or Russian philately in general. Honorary members are not allowed to vote in any Society elections. The President may also remove the Honorary Member status if events warrant or the Board of Directors unanimously recommends.

- c) Tentative membership is open to all individuals who successfully apply. A person is considered Tentative until his/her name is published in the next Bulletin and a period of ninety (90) days has passed with no negative comments from the Regular membership. Tentative Members shall enjoy the privileges of regular members except that of voting. They shall receive the Rossica Journal, any Bulletins, and other publications of the Society sent as a part of membership. Individuals under the age of 18 years may be admitted as Tentative members only when sponsored by a Regular member in good standing who will be responsible for their membership and subsequent actions.
- d) Applicants for membership shall fill out application forms provided by the Society and shall return same to the Treasurer, with such current amount in U.S. currency (or transaction instrument in US dollars) as is prescribed for the current year's dues.
- e) Applicants shall be notified by the Secretary of their acceptance into or rejection by the Society. Dependent upon the type of membership to which elected, successful applicants shall thereafter be obligated to participate in the activities of the Society to the extent possible, consistent with other pre-existing obligations.
- f) After a Tentative Member meets the designated period of time with no negative comments, the Secretary will notify the member of a status change from Tentative to Regular.
- g) The Society reserves the right to exclude and/or expel from membership any person whose conduct is of such nature as to cause harm to the aims or the work or the prestige of the Society, whether that conduct is specifically spelled out in Article VIII of the Constitution or not. Members whose actions are specifically covered in Article VIII of the Constitution may be expelled by a majority of the elected officers. "Elected officers" may also include individuals appointed by the President to fill a vacancy in the elected officer corps. For issues that fall outside of the guidelines, the President shall choose to seek guidance from the Board of Directors at a minimum. When asked for guidance, the Board of Directors may recommend to the President expulsion only if the decision is unanimous, e.g., all three directors vote for expulsion. If a unanimous decision cannot be reached, the President will poll all the elected officers for recommendations. Expulsion in the latter case would require a majority decision of the elected officers. In the event of a tie vote, the President will cast the determining vote. If any elected officer holds more than one office, that officer shall have only one vote on expulsion matters.

SECTION 3: Dues to the Society shall be payable on or before January first of the year for which dues are to be credited. There shall be no initiation fee. The payment of Society dues is independent of Chapter dues.

- a) Any member failing to pay the dues within the first three months (postmarked by 31 March) of the then current year shall be dropped automatically from membership and shall not thereafter be entitled to further benefits, until such time as dues are paid. Members remitting dues after 1 April of the year in which they are due will not receive the April journal without purchasing it at the member rate.
- b) Dues notices shall be sent to the membership by the Treasurer as a part of the October journal or in a separate mailing. Members whose dues returns are postmarked on or before 31 December of the year preceding the year for which the dues are being remitted shall be entitled to a reduction in dues as established by the officers. Those members whose dues returns are postmarked after 31 December must pay the full amount.
- c) All elected officers shall have their dues waived as a benefit of serving the Society. In addition, the Bulletin Editor and the Journal Editor shall have their dues waived. Honorary members are exempt from dues.

- d) The President may waive the annual dues for individuals or groups when deemed to be in the best interest of the Society.

SECTION 4: All Tentative, Regular, and Honorary Members in good standing shall receive one copy of all Journals and Bulletins issued by the Society. All members are invited and highly encouraged to submit material based on research or discovery for inclusion in the Journals and/or Bulletins.

- a) All Regular Members in good standing shall have the right to elect and to be elected to any official position of the Society as hereinafter provided.
- b) All members in good standing are required to answer all official communications within a reasonable time after receipt, nominally thirty (30) calendar days from date of mailing. This also shall apply to inter-member exchanges and trade between members participating in such activities. Failure to do so may subject such members to action under the provisions of ARTICLE VIII of this Constitution.
- c) All Tentative, Regular, and Honorary Members in good standing shall endeavor to attend all regular and special meetings of the Society (including chapter meetings); protect the interests of the Society; and render all possible philatelic aid to other members. They shall become acquainted with the provisions of this Constitution and render assistance, when possible, to the Officers of the Society in the fulfillment of said provisions.
- d) All Regular and Honorary members in good standing shall receive lists from the Society containing the names and addresses of all members. Such lists shall be revised periodically to include the names of new members and to delete the names of such former members who have been dropped from membership for whatever reason. The membership list is the property of Rossica and shall be used only by the members for personal philatelic correspondence. The list may be sent to outside organizations or individuals at the discretion of the President if it will enhance any aspect of the Society or Russian philately in general. Members who knowingly transmit the membership list in any form outside the Society will be subject to action under Article VIII of the Constitution.

ARTICLE III – OFFICERS of the Society

The **Elected** Officers of the Society shall consist of: (1) President, (2) Vice-President, (3) Secretary, (4) Treasurer, (5) Chairman of the Auditing Committee, (6) Librarian, and (7) Board of Directors (three in number).

The **Rossica Executive** shall consist of the President, Vice President, and Board of Directors.

The President may appoint any officers required to assist in the functioning of the Society. These officers shall be referred to as **Appointed** Officers. Their roles and functions will be defined at the time of appointment. At a minimum, they will be advisers to the Elected Officers or the Rossica Executive on specific subjects. The duration of an appointment is determined by the President based on the current needs of the Society.

The **Elected** Officers are charged with ensuring the Society is fully functional and operational at all times. The President will ensure involvement by those officers required for special issues that include, but are not limited to, operational or procedural matters for which no guidelines exist and the Rossica Executive determines there is a need for such guidelines.

The **Elected** Officers and **Appointed** Officers are charged with the day-to-day operations of the Society within defined guidelines and under the direction of the President and the Rossica Executive.

The **Rossica Executive** is charged with interpreting and executing policies and procedures and guiding the Society to further progress.

SECTION 1: PRESIDENT

The President of the “Rossica” Society shall be the administrative head of the organization. S/he shall preside over all meetings of the Elected and Appointed Officers, administer the provisions of this Constitution, and with the aid of the Rossica Executive and other officers, guide the Society to further progress. S/he shall be a member ex-officio of all Boards (except as provided for in Article VIII, Section 5e) and Committees, function as the final approval or disapproval of all actions as outlined in the Constitution, and shall assume responsibility for the publication of the official “Rossica” Journal and Bulletin. A presidential approval or disapproval can be overruled by a unanimous decision of the Board of Directors. The President shall be responsible for all relationships with individuals and organizations outside the Society in which the Society must be represented.

- a) The President’s term of office shall be for a period of three (3) years, and s/he shall be elected by a popular majority vote of all Regular Members in good standing voting in the regular or special election.
- b) In the event of death, resignation, or removal from office, the duties of the President shall be conducted by the Vice-President, who shall continue as President pro tem until either the next regular election or until a new President is chosen in a special election.

SECTION 2: VICE-PRESIDENT

The Vice-President of the Society shall be a member of the governing group. S/he shall assume all functions and duties of the President pro tem during the President’s absence or inability to function after the President has notified the officers or, if unable to notify the officers, after notification by the Board of Directors.

- a) The Vice-President’s term of office shall be for a period of three (3) years, and s/he shall be elected by a popular majority vote of all Regular Members in good standing voting in the regular or special election.
- b) In the event of death, resignation, or removal from office, the duties of the Vice-President shall be conducted by the Secretary, who shall continue as Vice-President pro tem until either the next regular election or until a new Vice-President is elected at a special election.
- c) In the event of prolonged illness or other situations during which the Vice-President is unable to function, the Secretary shall assume this role of Vice-President pro tem after the President has notified the officers. The Secretary will continue to function as Secretary in addition to Vice-President pro tem.

SECTION 3: SECRETARY

The Secretary of the Society shall be responsible for recording the minutes of annual meetings, presenting them at successive meetings, and recording them in the archives of the Society. S/he shall will conduct official correspondence of the Society, in accordance with presidential guidelines. The Secretary shall post the minutes of the annual meeting in the next issue of the Rossica journal immediately following the annual meeting.

- a) The Secretary's term of office shall be for a period of three (3) years, and s/he shall be elected by a popular majority vote of all Regular Members in good standing voting in the regular election.
- b) In the event of death, resignation, or removal of the Secretary from office, the President shall convene a special meeting of the Elected Officers and they shall elect a Secretary pro tem, who shall carry out the duties and functions of this office until the next regular election.

SECTION 4: TREASURER

The Treasurer of the Society shall have custody of the financial resources of the Society and shall conduct all financial transactions and other related functions. S/he shall keep an accurate and up-to-date record of receipts and expenditures, using normal double entry bookkeeping methods. S/he shall prepare and submit a formal written and detailed report of the Society's finances when requested by the President. If the President orders an audit, s/he shall render full assistance to the Auditing Committee, and s/he shall keep the President and the Chairman of the Auditing Committee fully advised at all times of the Society's financial assets and liabilities.

- a) The Treasurer's term of office shall be three (3) years and s/he shall be elected by a majority vote of all Regular Members in good standing voting at the regular elections.
- b) In the event of death, resignation, or removal of the Treasurer from office, the President shall convene a special meeting of the Elected Officers and they shall elect a Treasurer pro tem, who shall carry out the duties and functions of this office until the next regular election.

SECTION 5: CHAIRMAN OF THE AUDITING COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Auditing Committee shall keep constantly informed of the financial resources of the Society. S/he and the Auditing Committee shall conduct a complete audit of the treasury whenever requested by the President. Any audits conducted will be reported in full in the next issue of the journal.

- a) The Chairman of the Auditing Committee shall be elected for a term of three (3) years by a majority vote of all Regular Members in good standing voting at the regular elections.
- b) In the event of death, resignation, or removal of the Chairman of the Auditing Committee from office, the President shall convene a special meeting of the Elected Officers and they shall elect a Chairman pro tem of the Auditing Committee, who shall carry out the duties and functions of this office until the next regular election.

SECTION 6: LIBRARIAN

The Librarian of the Society shall have custody of all literature collected by or donated to the Society. S/he shall be responsible for the lending and recovery of all material taken out on loan by the members. The Librarian shall be responsible for obtaining information for the Library within the limits established by the President based on financial information provided by the Treasurer.

- a) The Librarian shall be elected for a term of three (3) years by a majority vote of all Regular Members in good standing voting at the regular elections.
- b) In the event of death, resignation, or removal of the Librarian from office, the President shall convene a special meeting of the Elected Officers and they shall elect a Librarian pro tem who shall carry out the duties and functions of this office until the next regular election. If relocation of the Library becomes necessary, the Society will bear all reasonable costs associated with the move.

SECTION 7: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Members of the Board of Directors of the “Rossica” Society shall be three (3) in number. Their duties shall be:

- a) aid and advise the President in the general operations,
- b) act as Trustees of the Society’s resources, and
- c) function as good-will ambassadors of the Society to the outside world per presidential guidance.

They shall be responsible for the Society’s assets in the event of dissolution. They shall review the application for membership of any applicant turned down when there is no Chapter to conduct a review, if so requested by the President. The Board of Directors can override a rejected application for membership with a unanimous vote. They shall pass upon all proposed amendments to the Constitution and only after their approval by majority (2/3) vote can such amendments be forwarded to the President for approval and subsequently be voted upon by the general membership.

- a) The Members of the Board of Directors shall be elected for a term of three (3) years by a majority vote of all Regular Members in good standing voting at the regular election.
- b) In the event of death, resignation, or removal of a Member of the Board of Directors from office, the President shall convene a special meeting of the Elected Officers, including the remaining Members of the Board of Directors, and they shall elect a replacement who shall continue in office pro tem and carry out the duties as a Member of the Board of Directors until the next regular election of the Society.

ARTICLE IV - ELECTION OF OFFICERS

SECTION 1: QUALIFICATIONS

All Regular Members in good standing of the Society shall be eligible for nomination and election, with the exceptions of the Librarian and the Treasurer, who shall reside on the North American continent.

SECTION 2: NOMINATIONS

The regular nominations for Officers of the Society shall be conducted during the months of April, May, and June of the third year following the previous regular elections.

- a) Nominating petitions for Officers may be circulated during the above mentioned months through Chapters or communities where Chapters are not established. It is the responsibility of the membership to forward nominations. Nominations may be forwarded via regular or electronic mail.
- b) Petitions indicating names of candidates and offices for which nominated shall be mailed (via regular or electronic mail) to the Secretary not later than 30 June 30 of the then current year. In the event no nominations are forwarded, the incumbent officers will be asked in writing (regular mail or electronic mail) by the Secretary if they will continue for another term in office.
- c) Such candidates shall then be requested to reply by regular mail to the Secretary's written notification of their nomination, indicating whether they accept or decline their nomination for the office to which they have been nominated.

If they should accept, they obligate themselves to support the Society and its functions. As candidates for Rossica office, they shall submit in writing a "platform" on which they intend to run. This "platform" shall outline what the candidate proposes to do in the event s/he is elected. If this "platform" letter is not received by the Secretary by 1 August of the then current year, the nomination shall fail. The letters from the candidates shall be included with the ballots. The "platforms" of successful candidates shall be printed in the next official Society publication or in a special mailing to the membership.

- d) The Secretary shall then forward the names of the candidates and the office for which the individual candidate wishes to aspire to the Balloting Committee, after approval by the President.

SECTION 3: BALLOTING COMMITTEE

The Balloting Committee of the Society shall consist of member(s) in good standing. They shall not be Officers of the Society, nor shall they be candidates for any Office. Normally, a single vote counter is all that is required with an alternative in case one is needed.

- a) The Balloting Committee shall have the responsibility for conducting elections. The member(s) of the Balloting Committee shall be appointed by the President based on recommendations by the Board of Directors and shall be so notified by the President through the Secretary. The President shall have the power to designate member(s) to the Balloting Committee in the event geographical locations of the Committee member(s) make it impractical to conduct the elections or if the Board of Directors is unable to make a recommendation.
- b) The Treasurer shall furnish the Balloting Committee with a list indicating the names and addresses of all Regular members in good standing via regular or electronic mail. The

Treasurer shall also furnish the necessary finances for the printing of the ballots and mailing costs to ensure that every Regular member in good standing receives a ballot.

- c) Ballots with the names of prospective candidates for office shall be electronically mailed to all Regular members in good standing with the capability to receive such mail or via regular mail to all Regular members in good standing who cannot receive electronic mail during the month of August of the then current year. The ballots must be returned via regular mail to maintain anonymity and shall be returned to the Balloting Committee postmarked no later than 15 October 15 of the same year. The Balloting Committee shall allow 7 days after the close of the election to ensure all ballots have been received. Members voting who wish to return their ballots via electronic mail may do so as well, if the Balloting Committee has the capability to receive electronic mail.
- d) The Balloting Committee, upon completion of the tallies, shall send a written report of the results of the election to the President. The President will then notify the Secretary of the results; the Secretary will then make the results known to all candidates. The report of the elections and results shall also appear in the next official "Rossica" publication following such elections.

SECTION 4: SPECIAL ELECTIONS

Special Elections may be called by the President or President pro tem acting with the majority approval of the Board of Directors and the remaining Elected Officers. Such officials elected into office at the Special Election shall hold office only until the next regular election.

ARTICLE V - MEETINGS

SECTION 1: Meetings of the Rossica Executive, Elected Officers, Board of Directors, and the Auditing Committee shall be held at least once annually or as necessary. The President of the Society through the Secretary shall notify all the above named Officers of the place and date of such meeting allowing ample time for their presence, where practical.

- a) In the event it is impossible to convene such meetings because of the geographical residencies of such members, the President shall poll the opinions of such Officers through communications sent via regular or electronic mail (email) by the Secretary.
- b) In all matters requiring a vote during such meetings or special meetings, a quorum of five (5) "yes" votes shall be required for passage of an item.
- c) Participation in these meetings is required for all elected and appointed officers. The President may excuse any officer from attending, if the situation warrants and the officer notifies the President in writing.

SECTION 2: Chapters shall hold as few or as many meetings as they wish, but such meetings shall be called by the Chairman of the Chapter. There shall be no specific quorum for such Chapter meetings, but the Chapter Secretary or member acting as Chapter Secretary shall keep the minutes of such meetings, as a matter of record, if desired by the Chairman of the Chapter.

ARTICLE VI - CHAPTERS

SECTION 1: Chapters of the "Rossica" Society of Russian Philately may be established in any area or community throughout the world where five (5) or more Regular Rossica members in good standing reside, with the written permission and consent of the President based on recommendations of the Board

of Directors of the Society. Each Chapter shall be autonomous in its activities, but such activities or functions shall not be contrary to this Constitution or the policies of the Society. Such Chapters shall be governed by this Constitution and shall use any name including "Rossica" only during the time it conforms hereto.

- a) Where such Chapters are established, the members shall elect from among their own group three (3) Chapter Officers, namely Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- b) The Chairman so elected shall preside over all Chapter meetings. S/he shall be responsible for all functions of the Chapter and, with the approval of the President, shall represent the Society in his/her area or community.
- c) The Secretary so elected shall keep all records involving the Chapter including all official communications and, in general, assume the duties and functions of the Chapter secretariat.
- d) The Treasurer so elected shall be responsible for all finances, and financial transactions of the Chapter and keep an accurate record of same.

SECTION 2: Chapters shall be empowered to establish local dues for their members. Such dues shall in no event be higher in amount than the dues established by the Society as annual dues.

- a) All such dues and funds derived from any sources by the Chapters shall be the property of the Chapters and shall be expended only in the interest of the Chapter and the Chapter's membership.
- b) Upon the disbanding or dissolution of any Chapter, all records, funds, and property shall be transferred to the Society by the Chapter Chairman. The Society shall act as trustee of such property and shall return same to such Chapter if and when it is reactivated, provided it is reactivated within a three-year period. If it is not so reactivated, the Society shall use such assets as it deems fit and proper.
- c) Chapters may establish and maintain libraries for the interest and welfare of their members.

SECTION 3: The terms of office for the Chapter Chairman, Chapter Secretary, and Chapter Treasurer shall be fixed by the members of the particular Chapter. Such terms of office shall not prevent such officers from being re-nominated and reelected for more than one (1) term at the expiration of the previous term of office.

SECTION 4: The Charter of any Chapter and its right to use the word "Rossica" as part of its name may be withdrawn, on thirty (30) days written notice from the Secretary of the Society, when in the opinion of a two-thirds majority of the elected officers, based on the recommendations of the Board of Directors, its activities are considered to be detrimental to the best interests of the Society.

ARTICLE VII - OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS

SECTION 1: The official publication of the Society for the dissemination of information inside and outside of the Society shall be known as "The Journal of the Rossica Society of Russian Philately," hereafter referred to as "the Journal."

- a) It shall be published under the overall supervision of a Journal Editor appointed by the President. The Journal Editor shall appoint such members of the Society as he/she deems necessary to aid him/her in preparing the successive issues of the publication such as Business and Advertising Manager, Publicity Director, Photographic Director, etc.
- b) The President and the Journal Editor will establish an Editorial Board consisting of individuals with relative knowledge in Russian philately. The Editorial Board will assist the

Journal Editor in ensuring accuracy of material published. At a minimum, members of the Editorial Board will review all articles proposed by the Journal Editor for publication or articles for which the Journal Editor requires assistance. The Editorial Board may recommend not publishing an article that is questionable.

SECTION 2: The official publication of the Society the dissemination of information inside the Society shall be known as “The Bulletin of the Rossica Society of Russian Philately,” hereafter referred to as “the Bulletin.” It shall be published under the overall supervision of a Bulletin Editor appointed by the President. The Bulletin is intended to be an informal adjunct used to publish member information as well as general information between the issues of the journal. The Journal and Bulletin Editors shall coordinate this effort with the approval of the President

- a) It shall be published under the overall supervision of a Bulletin Editor appointed by the President. The Bulletin Editor shall appoint such members of the Society as he/she deems necessary to aid him/her in preparing the successive issues of the publication.
- a) The Bulletin Editor shall verify factual content of articles to be published to the extent possible, but shall not be responsible for any copyright information, which is the responsibility of the individual author(s). The Bulletin shall not contain any article that is questionable without the Bulletin Editor so indicating. The President reserves the right to approve or disapprove any questionable article(s) and shall depend on input directly from the Bulletin Editor.
- c) A draft copy of all forthcoming articles including text and artwork (photocopies are OK) shall be submitted to the President sufficiently in advance of the anticipated publication date to allow for guidance should any be necessary.
- a) Funds for the publication of the Bulletin shall be derived from dues from the membership, contributions, sale of literature, etc.

SECTION 3: All Regular, Honorary, and Tentative members in good standing of the Society shall be entitled to receive one (1) copy of each issue of the “Journal” and the “Bulletin” free. If more than one copy is requested, the President, after coordination with the Editor and Treasurer, may fix such rate as is deemed necessary to cover costs of publication.

SECTION 4: The President at his discretion may direct the Editor to issue copies of the “Journal” and/or the “Bulletin” free of cost to other philatelic societies, clubs, or individuals that wish to use it for their libraries or for research work being done by their members, or as a goodwill gesture.

SECTION 5: All Regular, Honorary, and Tentative members in good standing of the “Rossica” Society may and are highly encouraged to participate in making the “Journal” and the “Bulletin” successful by contributing material for inclusion therein of any discoveries or articles dealing with Russian philately that would be of interest. Such material should be submitted to the appropriate Editor.

SECTION 6: The Editor may enter the Journal in any national or international philatelic exhibitions after coordination with the President. Recommendations for specific exhibitions may come from any member of the Society.

ARTICLE VIII - APPEALS AND GRIEVANCES

SECTION 1: ARTICLE VIII, Sections 2–4 apply to all members of the Society. The President may discipline any member other than an Officer under the guidelines provided in the Constitution. There shall be no disciplining or expulsion of any Officer or member unless s/he has had a fair and open trial, should such be requested by the Officer or member involved.

Any member, Officers included, who obtains stamps, or other material, either from another member of the Society or an individual outside the society (notification sent to the Secretary or President from an outside individual or organization with a complaint) and who does not promptly pay for same or return them, or who uses the Society's reputation to obtain credit without promptly paying for the material so acquired will be subject to disciplining as provided for in this Article.

SECTION 2: Any member of the Society who is personally aggrieved by any action of any other member may complain about such actions, or appeal for redress by notifying the Secretary in writing. The Secretary, after coordination with the President, shall notify the Elected Officers. All complaints, appeals, and grievances shall be investigated as quickly as possible to ensure friendly cooperation and harmony among all members of the Society. The Elected Officers will investigate the issue and report their findings and recommendations to the President for final resolution. The President taking into consideration the Elected Officer's recommendations may issue at a minimum a warning to the individual or, if warranted, expel the individual from the Society. Expulsion from the Society requires a majority vote of the Elected Officers. Should further assistance be required to resolve an issue, the President may task the Secretary to file a grievance with the APS or ASDA, if the individual is a member of those organizations.

SECTION 3: Incidents that could lead to expulsion from the Society consist of, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Sending a check that does not clear the bank and failing to make restitution.
2. Failure to respond to official correspondence.
3. Failure to make good a philatelic debt.
4. Openly demeaning the Society or undermining its goals and objectives.
5. Copyright violations.
6. Perjury.
7. Using the name of the Society for personal gain.
8. Incarceration.
9. Knowingly engaging in the production and/or distribution of faked or forged items.
10. Unauthorized distribution of the membership list or elements thereof.
11. Knowingly soliciting or purchasing pirated copies of literature etc.

SECTION 4: Incidents that could lead to a warning letter consist of, but are not limited to, the following:

1. All actions listed above.
2. Expulsion by the APS or any other philatelic society for actions unbecoming a member, for instance, not responding to correspondence or failure to settle a philatelic debt.
3. Complaints involving philatelic disputes filed against individuals.

SECTION 5: Charges filed against any Elected Officer for violation of any Article of this Constitution or policies of the Society shall be tried as follows:

- a) A Trial Board shall consist of all Elected Officers other than the officer charged, and in the event one officer brings charges against another officer, neither of those two officers shall sit on the Trial Board.
- b) The Trial Board shall receive a written copy of the charges.
- c) Upon hearing such charges and any defenses thereto or explanation thereof, the Trial Board shall make its decision known to the President, with their recommendations.
- d) The President may upon the recommendation of the Trial Board fix such penalties as the particular case may warrant.
- e) In the event charges are brought against the President of the Society, the Trial Board shall consist of the Board of Directors. After hearing said charges and any defenses thereto or explanation thereof, they shall make their decision known to all Elected and Appointed Officers. Expulsion shall require a unanimous vote by the Board. The Vice-President shall function as President pro tem and be tasked with rendering the final decision. The Elected and Appointed Officers shall then take proper action to safeguard the interests of the Society. The President shall not be considered a member ex-officio of this special Trial Board nor shall s/he have the power or authority to interfere with the Board of Directors in rendering their decision.

SECTION 6: Charges filed against any member other than an Officer for violation of any Article of this Constitution or policies of the Society shall be tried as follows:

- a) The President may discipline any member under the guidelines provided in the Constitution. The decision of the President can be overruled by a unanimous vote of the Board of Directors.
- b) Should the member prefer a trial or feel the decision of the President is in error, the individual shall notify the Secretary, who, after coordination with the President, shall notify the Trial Board.

- c) The Trial Board shall consist of the Board of Directors for any action less than expulsion. If expulsion could be considered, the Trial Board shall consist of all Elected Officers.
- d) Upon hearing such charges and any defenses thereto or explanation thereof, the Trial Board shall make its decision known to the President, with their recommendations. A majority vote shall be required for expulsion. The President cannot overrule a unanimous decision of the Trial Board.
- e) The President shall, with the recommendation of the Trial Board, fix such penalties as the particular case may warrant.

ARTICLE IX - FINANCES

SECTION 1: INCOME

All checks to the Society shall be made out to “The Rossica Society” or “The Rossica Society of Russian Philately,” or “Rossica” and not in the name of any individual member or Officer. All moneys paid to or received by the Society are to be kept in a bank account in the name of the Society. Withdrawals other than by check (e.g., by withdrawal slip) can only be achieved with the signatures of any two of the following three Elected Officers- (1) President, (2) Vice President and (3) Treasurer.

SECTION 2: DISBURSEMENTS

Disbursements can be made only after the Treasurer has received a properly completed official voucher form or receipts from the requester. All requests are to be made in writing and signed by the person who is to receive the money prior to being submitted for payment. The requested payment must be approved by the President prior to the Treasurer sending payment.

ARTICLE X - DISSOLUTION

SECTION 1- The Society shall be considered a legal and valid organization as long as it is comprised of at least ten (10) or more members in good standing.

SECTION 2: In the event of dissolution of the Society, all its property, records, funds, assets, etc., shall be placed in custody of the Board of Directors in office at the time of such dissolution, who shall retain same as Trustees.

SECTION 3- A final audit of the Society’s assets shall be made by the Board of Directors and/or the Auditing Committee and the remaining members of the Society shall be notified of such audit, which shall include a report of the assets of the Society. The Board of Directors shall retain said records, assets, etc., for as long as they are able, and in the event the Society is reactivated shall apply the Society’s name to the reactivating group and shall deliver the remaining assets to the reactivating group for the re-establishment of the Society. If there is no hope that the Society can be reactivated, the Board of Directors shall make such disposition of the Society’s records, assets, etc. as they see fit.

Section VIII – Sections 3-4. Please indicate if you feel these should remain in the Constitution. They can be a matter of policy if not placed in the Constitution. Please vote on where they belong.