

WHITEMUD NETWORK GROUP CONSTITUTION

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(consolidated as at Edmonton, April, 2017)

- A. Whereas the members of the Whitemud Network Group (the "Group") have agreed to meet on a regular basis for the purpose of promoting their respective businesses; and
(April 2017)
- B. The members feel that the purpose of the Group can best be served by developing a set of rules to govern the operation of the Group and the interaction of the members.
- C. It is an objective of the Group that no two members will be in competition with each other, except by mutual agreement.

1.0 OFFICERS

- 1.1 The Group shall have six elected Officers (the "Executive"): President, Sergeant-at-Arms, Treasurer, Secretary, Speaker Coordinator and Website Coordinator. *(April 2017)*
- 1.2 Officers shall be elected annually on the first Thursday in December to hold office from January 1st to December 31st of the next year. *(March 30, 2006)*
- 1.3 The President shall have the following responsibilities:
 - a) Chair weekly meetings
 - b) Coordinate Group activities
 - c) Primary contact for new member inquiries
 - d) Coordinate and assist other officers in performing their duties.
- 1.4 The Sergeant-At-Arms shall have the following responsibilities:
 - a) Provide new members with a copy of the Constitution
 - b) Help the President keep order during the meeting
 - c) Assist with special projects
 - d) Levy fines
 - e) Attend meetings of the executive as called by the President.
- 1.5 The Treasurer shall have the following responsibilities:
 - a) Be in charge of all moneys (collect dues and fines, pay expenses and prepare other payments as directed by the membership)
 - b) Provide regular accounting to the Group
 - c) Prepare final accounting for Dec. 31 to pass accounts on to the newly elected Treasurer
 - d) Advise and negotiate with the restaurant on minimum plate guarantees and contract terms
 - e) Track attendance
 - f) Attend meetings of the executive as called by the President.
- 1.6 The Secretary shall have the following responsibilities:
 - a) Prepare and email weekly newsletter to the membership
 - b) Maintain a copy of the most current version of the Constitution
 - c) Prepare minutes of meetings of the Officers
 - d) Attend meetings of the executive as called by the President.

- 1.7 The Speaker Coordinator shall have the following responsibilities:
- a) Schedule speakers for each weekly meeting
 - b) Endeavor to give each member an opportunity to give a presentation to the Group
 - c) Coordinate purchase of gifts to be given to guest speakers and to make recommendations regarding which speakers should be given those gifts
 - d) Attend meetings of the executive as called by the President.
- 1.8 The Website Coordinator shall have the following responsibilities:
- a) Maintain a website with contact information and classification description for members in good standing
 - b) Maintain email contact for the Group and forward email and communications for the Group to the responsible Officer
 - c) Maintain a copy of the current version of the Group's constitution on the website
 - d) Attend meetings of the executive as called by the President.
- 1.9 Although the Officers are charged with the responsibility of day-to-day operating of the Group, it is expected that any significant decisions that are required to be made for the Group will be made by a majority resolution of the Group upon reasonable notice. *(April 2017)*

2.0 MEMBERSHIP

- 2.1 Except by mutual consent of the members involved, members shall not have overlapping business classifications.
- 2.2 On the first Thursday of each quarter, each member will pay quarterly dues; however, with the approval of the Treasurer, members may pay dues on a monthly basis, payable on the first Thursday of each month.
- 2.3 The Group shall have no more than 45 active members on its roster. *(May 20, 1999)*
- 2.4 No member shall be permitted to protect more than one business classification. *(March 30, 2006)*

3.0 MEMBERSHIP PACKAGE

- 3.1 A copy of the Constitution and a membership list will be maintained by the Executive and posted on the website.

4.0 PROCEDURE FOR NEW MEMBERS

- 4.1 Members are encouraged to invite potential members to attend meetings as our guest. Before a member invites a guest, or when a member is approached by a prospective guest, the member shall attempt to determine if there is a potential conflict. *(March 30, 2006)*

- 4.2 Every effort will be made to not extend an invitation where guests appear to be in competition with a member of the Group who is in good standing.
- 4.3 When attending as a guest, a potential member should be asked to give a brief presentation explaining the nature of his/her business. The potential member may also provide a written summary to be included in the weekly newsletter.
- 4.4 If, at the meeting or after receiving the newsletter, a member objects on the grounds of competition, s/he must notify the Executive immediately and request that the application for membership be denied. If no objection is raised within the four week "probationary period", then the guest will be invited to join the Group and his/her information will be added to the website.
- 4.5 Once a prospective member has attended three consecutive meetings (the probationary period) and has declared an interest in joining the Whitemud Network Group, membership will be ratified at his/her fourth meeting by a majority vote, in camera, of the members present.
- 4.6 If two or more potential members in the same classification apply to join the Group simultaneously and there is no objection under 4.4 herein, their probationary period will be extended to eight weeks, after which the Group will determine which of them will be offered membership by a vote, in camera, of the members present. *(April 2017)*

5.0 ATTENDANCE

- 5.1 Weekly attendance is a requirement for membership.
- 5.2 If a member is unable to attend meetings for an extended period of time (3 or more weeks), that person shall inform the President, via email, of his/her inability to attend. The President will report to the membership. *(March 30, 2006/April 2017)*
- 5.3 If a member is unable to attend a meeting, s/he is requested to appoint an associate, from his/her business, to attend in his/her place.
- 5.4 After four (4) consecutive unexcused meetings are missed, a member's right to protect his/her business classification will be lost. If a competitor should ask to join, the member will have relinquished his/her veto and, upon acceptance of the new member, will have lost his/her membership.
- 5.5 An email will be forwarded to each member whose classification is placed in jeopardy under 5.4. *(April 2017)*
- 5.6 The meeting shall commence at 7:15 a.m. SHARP!
- 5.7 The meeting shall conclude by 8:30 a.m. SHARP!

6.0 MEMBERSHIP DUES

- 6.1 Quarterly dues shall be \$180.00 until changed by a resolution of the general membership. Members may (with consent of the Treasurer) pay dues monthly. *(April 2017)*
- 6.2 Quarterly dues shall be as set by a resolution of the general membership.
- 6.3 The first breakfast for potential new members who attend as a guest will be free of charge. A fee will be charged for all other guests. Such fee (currently \$20.00) will be as set by a resolution of the membership. *(April 2017)*
- 6.4 A drop-in fee of \$25.00 per week will be charged for members who elect (with approval of the Executive) not to pay dues on a monthly or quarterly basis. *(April 2017)*
- 6.5 The Group will pay the cost of the guest speaker's meal.
- 6.6 Where a member invites a guest who is neither a potential member nor a speaker, the member will be charged a "guest fee" (Currently set at \$20.00.) *(April 2017)*

7.0 LEADS

- 7.1 Each member is required to provide one lead, or have one guest, per meeting. Failure to do so will result in a one dollar fine.
- 7.2 Leads of a general nature may be given openly to the members in attendance at the meeting, or they may be given directly to an individual on the date of the meeting, or within a one week period following the meeting.
- 7.3 Sources of leads are to be kept confidential unless otherwise mentioned.
- 7.4 A guest is considered a lead.

8.0 AMENDMENTS

- 8.1 The Constitution may only be amended by a 2/3 majority vote by the members present at the meeting.
- 8.2 The President shall determine the vote by counting a show of hands.
- 8.3 Proposals for amendments of the Constitution are welcomed, but must be provided to the President prior to the meeting.

9.0 IDEAS

- 9.1 It is requested that the membership provide the President and/or Speaker Coordinator with ideas regarding guest speakers, social activities, improvements to the Group and the format of the meetings.

10.0 FINES

- 10.1 Fines are a minimum of \$1.00 and a maximum of \$2.00.
- 10.2 Fines may be levied at the absolute and unfettered discretion of the Sergeant-at-Arms (*March 30, 2006*) for any of the following:
- a) Being late
 - b) No tip or lead
 - c) Cell phone misconduct (ringing during meeting, taking a call during meeting, texting during meeting, etc.) (*April 2017*)
 - d) Rude or disruptive behaviour (*April 2017*)
 - e) Other good-natured “infractions” that may be deemed appropriate from time to time by the Sergeant-at-Arms (*April 2017*)

11.0 VOTING

- 11.1 Each member in good standing of the Group in attendance at a regular meeting shall be entitled to one vote on any resolution put before the membership.
- 11.2 The Executive will give notice, by email, to the membership in advance of any issue being presented to the membership. If a member is unable to attend to vote on that issue in person, s/he may submit an absentee ballot to the Secretary or President in advance of the meeting at which the vote will be held.