

**THE BEAD SOCIETY OF SOUTHEASTERN VIRGINIA
BYLAWS
2008**

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of this organization will be **THE BEAD SOCIETY OF SOUTHEASTERN VIRGINIA.**

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE

The purpose of these Bylaws is to establish a governing structure for **The Bead Society of Southeastern Virginia (BSSV)** which best serves the interests of the membership.

ARTICLE III

MISSION

The Bead Society of Southeastern Virginia believes in enriching lives through sharing our enjoyment, knowledge and appreciation of beads and creative beading techniques.

ARTICLE IV

MEMBERSHIP

Membership to the BSSV is open to any person age 16 or older regardless of ethnicity, gender, or religious orientation. Immediate membership will be granted upon payment of the required, non-refundable membership dues per calendar year (January 1 - December 31) unless the membership is given after July 1. Dues to join after July 1st will be half of the annual amount. A member may resign from the BSSV at any time.

ARTICLE V

MEETINGS

BSSV meetings will be held on the third (3rd) Sunday of each month. Meeting dates and/or times are subject to periodic change and members will be notified. Emergency meetings or cancellations will be decided by officers of the BSSV and posted on the website at www.bssv.org. Members should check the website for inclement weather meeting information. The normal meeting date and/or time may be permanently changed by 1) announcing an upcoming vote to change said date/time in the monthly newsletter and 2) receiving an affirmative vote of a majority of members in attendance at the next meeting.

ARTICLE VI

OFFICERS

The Executive Board of Officers of the BSSV will include President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer and Newsletter Editor. The positions of Recording Secretary and Treasurer may be held by one person. To be eligible to run for office, a person must be an active member (dues paid in full) and 18 years of age or older. The Board may, at its discretion, organize committees and appoint members thereof, as needed. BSSV Board meetings will be open in nature. Any member may attend a BSSV Board meeting.

ELECTIONS

The Vice-President will appoint a nominating committee which includes at least three (3) persons. The nominating committee will provide the Executive Board with the names of nominees to fill position vacancies. Members will not be considered for nomination without their permission. Elections will take place at the November meeting. Each term of office is one calendar year. In the event a term cannot be completed, the remaining members of the Executive Board will vote on a successor to serve the remainder of the term. Officers will be determined through an election process by a simple majority of active (dues paid in full) voting members. An election committee of at least three (3) members will be appointed by the Executive Board to count the ballots. The names of those elected will be announced by the election committee to the Executive Board and to the membership.

ARTICLE VII

EXECUTIVE BOARD

The President may appoint additional ad-hoc members, such as persons who have successfully held office in past years. These ad-hoc members will not have voting privileges within the decision making processes of the Executive Board. The Executive Board is responsible for carrying out the decisions of the majority of the membership. The Executive Board will meet at its discretion. The Executive Board prepares the agenda for the BSSV meetings and may appoint committees. The Executive Board has the responsibility to facilitate meetings and is prohibited from monopolizing membership meeting discussions. A quorum of three (3) Executive Board members is needed in order for official proposals/amendments to be passed.

ARTICLE VIII

MISCELLANEOUS

MEMBERSHIP

Benefits to the BSSV membership include:

1. Receiving the BSSV newsletter
2. Checking out books/videos from the BSSV lending library
3. Attending BSSV workshops and classes (either free or at a membership discount)
4. Participation in special purchase opportunities, trips, and the Annual Members Only sale
5. Participation in discount or sale offers by local retailers for BSSV members only
6. The opportunity to join BSSV affiliated local Beading Buddies groups
7. Having easy accessibility to support, resource information, and those with a common interest

Member responsibilities include:

1. Upholding and promoting the BSSV mission
2. Being familiar with the BSSV bylaws
3. Being willing to volunteer to serve on committees to help the organization
4. Being willing to help staff demonstration tables at public events
5. Timely payment of dues and other fees which have been determined by a majority vote
6. Attending meetings and participating in BSSV programs as possible

WORKSHOPS

Scheduled workshops are open to all members of the BSSV. Meetings where the workshops have been designated "Members Only" will be closed to visitors. Pre-registration on a first come basis may be required. Some fees, separate from membership, may apply. The Executive Board and the workshop facilitator will determine the cost of a workshop prior to the pre-registration period.

VENDORS

Vendors who are active BSSV members are welcome to sell merchandise one (1) hour before and one (1) hour after meetings. If tables are required for BSSV programs, vendors may need to disassemble displays during the meeting. Vendors are required to pay 5% of their sales to the BSSV in a manner approved by the Board. Merchandise should be covered during the meetings; member/vendor sales must not disrupt BSSV meetings in any way.

WEBSITE

The BSSV will maintain an internet presence at www.bssv.org. The Board will be responsible for voting on the choice of Internet Service Providers and the features available on the website. The President will be the BSSV liaison to the ISP unless she delegates another officer to assume that position.

These bylaws may be amended by the affirmative vote of a majority of the attending members of the BSSV. Previous written notice must be given to the membership at a regular BSSV meeting at least one month prior to the meeting at which the amending vote is to be taken.

Adapted from 2004 Bylaws in September 2008 at a meeting of the 2007-2008 Executive board including: Sandy Westbrook, Milyn King, Eva Washington and Tammy Bacot.

Proposed changes were posted in the September issue of the BSSV Newsletter and read aloud to the membership at the General meeting on September 21st 2008.

Bylaws as posted and read were approved by a unanimous vote of the membership at the BSSV meeting on October 19th 2008.