

American and International Women's Association of Venice

Associate member of The Federation Of American Women's Clubs Overseas

CONSTITUTION

Revised November 2024

Adopted 16 December 2024

**SECTION I: NAME**

Article 1. The name of the organisation shall be **The American and International Women's Association of Venice**, hereby known as the **Association** (hereafter "the Association" or "AIWAV").

**SECTION II: FOUNDING**

A1. The Association was founded on October 18, 2019.

**SECTION III: PURPOSE AND MISSION**

A1. AIWAV is a non-political, non-sectarian, and not-for-profit group of international women living in Venice, Italy (and surrounding area). Our membership is welcoming and inclusive of English speakers of all nationalities and offers monthly social and cultural activities within the community.

A2. The mission of the Association is to bring together English-speaking women of the Venetian community to be a network of support by holding social/cultural activities; be a resource and a voice for its members especially in the areas of human rights, health, education and the environment; and seek to improve the lives of women and girls worldwide but with a focus on the Venetian lagoon.

A3. AIWAV is an affiliate of FAWCO (Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas).

**SECTION IV: MEMBERSHIP**

A1. All English-speaking women residing in the Venice area who follow the mission and purpose of the club area are eligible for membership.

A2. Applications for membership shall be submitted to the Leadership Team (hereafter "LT") for approval.

A4. If a member refuses to fulfil a financial obligation (and did not request a financial waiver), her membership will be revoked.

A7. Regular membership runs from 1 September through 31 August.

**SECTION V: DUES AND FEES**

A1. The annual dues shall be determined by the LT.

A2. Annual dues will include one official meeting/event per month from September through June. Some events may require an additional fee, which members will be informed about in due time.

A3. Annual dues are not refundable.

A4. The Association will have a hardship fund to assist any member, anonymously, who has difficulty paying their

annual dues.

A5. If there is any surplus at the remainder of the fiscal year, the surplus shall be divided between a charity to be selected by the members and an event for the members.

#### **SECTION VI: RESIGNATION AND EXPULSION**

A1. A member may submit her resignation in writing to the LT at any time, but dues will not be refunded as a result of this resignation.

A2. A member may not take part in any activity in the name of, nor use the name of, AIWAV in any way that may be construed to be political in nature or that may be for personal or monetary gain. This is grounds for expulsion.

A3. Members must uphold appropriate behaviour when at a function in the name of AIWAV. Non-appropriate behaviour may include actions that could be harmful to another member or the name of AIWAV. Inappropriate behaviour will result in a warning and possible expulsion.

#### **SECTION VII: MEETINGS**

A1. The Association shall meet once a month from September through June (the social calendar) with additional monthly events in July/August - the day to be designated by the current LT at the first LT meeting of the year.

A2. All Association business shall be conducted according to majority voting (online and anonymous). There shall be a monthly meeting to discuss current business, finances, and upcoming events. Additional meetings involving Association business may be called by the LT or by a written request to the LT of at least 10% of active members of the Association.

A4. Each member has the right to a vote regarding club decisions.

#### **SECTION VIII: LEADERSHIP TEAM**

A1. The size of the LT can vary year to year due to needs. However, the LT always will consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. (who will also make up the Administration Team), along with additional roles as advisory positions as needed for a maximum of 10. At least 2 of the LT shall be U.S. citizens. There also must be a FAWCO Representative position held by a Member. This position may be held by a member of the LT in a dual capacity or by non-LT Member.

A2. The terms of a member of the LT shall be 2 years with a term limit of 2 terms. LT members are eligible to re-apply for candidacy again after a 1-term pause. The terms of office of the LT shall begin after the installation of the new LT at the closing meeting of the year. Should no new candidates come forward for an expired term limit position, an incumbent may volunteer for a third consecutive term.

A3. The general management of the affairs of the Association shall be vested in the LT. The LT shall meet quarterly from August through July and when necessary for the needs of the Association - at such time as may be called by the President or by the majority of the LT. The Administration Team of the LT will meet monthly.

A4. In the event a member needs to address the LT, they can attend an LT meeting with prior permission and without the right to vote.

#### **SECTION XI: ELECTION OF LEADERSHIP TEAM**

A1. Elections will be held at the time of the June meeting (every other year), anonymously and online. Nominations must be received by 31 May. Winning vote will go to the candidate with the majority votes. Members may self-nominate.

## **SECTION X: AMENDMENTS**

A1. This Constitution may be amended following a motion at any meeting by an online vote.

## **SECTION XI: ASSETS OF THE ASSOCIATION**

A1. The funds of the Association shall consist of annual dues of the members, interest on bank deposits, gifts, contributions, income from public/private events (such as dinners, dances, bazaars, lotteries) and special fundraisers as well as funds from any other activity approved by the LT

## **SECTION XII: DISSOLUTION**

A1. To effect the dissolution of the Association, a meeting shall be called for that sole purpose. Every member in good standing shall receive notice, emailed at least 21 days in advance of the meeting of the reasons for dissolution. In order to pass, a resolution to effect dissolution shall require a majority of those casting a vote.

A2. In the case of dissolution for whatever motivation, the assets of the Association, if any, shall be donated to a designated charity as designated in the resolution calling for dissolution according to article 3 comma 190 of the law number 23 December 1996 n. 6 and except differently specified by law.

Adopted 16 Dec 2024