Standard Rotary Community Corps Constitution and Bylaws

ARTICLE 1 — Purpose and Goals

The purpose of the Rotary Community Corps program is to empower communities to address their needs by developing and participating in sustainable service initiatives.

The goals of the Rotary Community Corps program are:

1) To develop partnerships between Rotarians and non-Rotarians in a joint effort to enhance their community

2) To support community members who proactively address community needs, recognizing their unique ability to identify the most pressing concerns and suitable methods of implementation

3) To promote sustainable solutions to community needs by engaging a broader segment of the community in developing and implementing focused service projects

ARTICLE 2 — Sponsorship

Each corps shall be sponsored by one or more local Rotary clubs which, through a committee of Rotarians, shall provide counsel on activities, programs, and policies of the corps. The sponsoring Rotary club must actively participate in the corps.

The members of the corps are not members of the sponsoring club and are not to be considered as associate or apprentice Rotarians.

ARTICLE 3 — Membership

a) The membership of each corps should consist of adults with good character and the desire and capacity to contribute toward enhancement of the community, with consideration given to those with leadership potential. Membership shall be open to any person living, working, or studying in or near the corps' community.

b) The method of electing members of each corps shall be determined by the corps in consultation with the sponsoring Rotary club.

c) Membership may be terminated

(1) upon failure to continue to meet the qualifications for membership, or

(2) for cause, as determined by the corps by vote of not less than 2/3 of all the members in good standing.

ARTICLE 4 — Meetings

a) Good attendance should be a priority for all members. Each corps shall meet at least once per month, at a time and place suited to the convenience of the members.

b) The leadership group of each corps shall meet at least once per month, or as often as program management and supervision is necessary for successful Rotary Community Corps activities.

c) No meeting of the corps or of its leadership group shall be deemed official unless a member of the sponsoring club's Rotary Community Corps committee (or other Rotarian designated by the Rotary club president) is in attendance.

ARTICLE 5 — Leadership Group

a) The leadership group of each corps shall consist of as many members as the corps itself shall determine, in consultation with the sponsoring Rotary club, all to be elected from among the members in good standing.

b) Election of members of the leadership group shall be by methods compatible with local customs and procedures, but in no case shall more than a simple majority vote be required for election.

c) The leadership group shall elect a representative from among themselves-to represent the corps in dealings with the sponsoring Rotary club and the public.

d) The term of office of all corps leaders shall be one year, unless a shorter term is determined by the corps in consultation with its sponsoring Rotary club.

ARTICLE 6 — Activities and Projects

a) Each corps shall be responsible for planning, organizing, financing, and conducting its own activities except that in the case of joint projects or activities undertaken in cooperation with other organizations, such responsibility shall be shared with such other organization(s). Any net proceeds from the corps' projects or activities shall be used to pay project expenses of the corps.

b) Each corps shall undertake among its activities at least two major projects annually. One of the major projects shall be to serve the community and the other shall be to provide the opportunity for members to serve through their vocations or develop the vocational skills of corps members. These projects shall involve all or most of the corps members.

This committee shall be responsible for promoting integrity in all the corps' business dealings and initiating vocational service projects.

c) Each corps shall raise the funds necessary to carry out its activities and projects. It shall not solicit or accept more than occasional or incidental financial assistance from its sponsoring Rotary club, nor shall it make general solicitations from other Rotary clubs or other Rotary Community Corps. It shall not solicit financial assistance from individuals, businesses, or organizations in the community without prior approval of the sponsoring Rotary club. Any net proceeds from the corps' projects or activities shall be used to pay project expenses of the corps.

ARTICLE 7 — Committees

The corps representative, with the approval of the leadership group, may appoint such committees as he or she may deem necessary, citing their duties at the time of appointment. Committees for administration, vocational service, community service, and finance are recommended for each corps. All such committees shall lapse upon completion of their duties, upon discharge by the appointing corps representative, or with the end of his or her term of office, whichever occurs first.

ARTICLE 8 — Fees and Dues

a) Any fees, dues, or assessments to be paid by the membership of the corps shall be nominal and shall be for the sole purpose of meeting administrative costs.

b) Funds for activities and projects undertaken shall be raised apart from such fees or assessments.

c) A thorough audit by a qualified person shall be made once each year of all financial transactions and reported to the members of the corps and to the sponsoring Rotary club.

ARTICLE 9 — Acceptance of Constitution

All members of Rotary Community Corps, by their acceptance of membership and continuation thereof,

accept the principles of the Rotary Community Corps expressed herein and agree to comply with this constitution.

ARTICLE 10 — Adoption of Bylaws

Each corps shall adopt bylaws for its management and governance. The bylaws shall be similar to the Standard Rotary Community Corps Bylaws as approved by the Rotary International Board of Directors, but such standard bylaws may be modified to accommodate local customs and procedures.

ARTICLE 11 — Emblem

The emblem of the Rotary Community Corps shall be preserved for the exclusive use and benefit of its members. Members shall be entitled to wear or otherwise display the emblem in a dignified and appropriate manner during the period of their membership. Each member shall relinquish such entitlement upon termination of his or her membership or upon termination of the corps.

ARTICLE 12 — Duration

a) Each corps shall exist so long as it continues to function in accordance with the provisions of this constitution or until it is terminated:
    1) by the corps upon its own determination and action;
    2) by the sponsoring Rotary club upon withdrawal of its sponsorship of the corps; or
    3) by Rotary International for failure of the corps to function in accordance with this constitution or for other cause.

b) Upon termination of the corps, all rights and privileges relating to the Rotary Community Corps name and emblem shall be relinquished by the corps and by its members individually and collectively.

ARTICLE 13 — Amendments

This constitution may be amended only by action of the Board of Directors of Rotary International, and all amendments to the Standard Rotary Community Corps Bylaws adopted by the RI Board of Directors shall automatically amend this constitution.

Standard Rotary Community Corps Bylaws

SECTION A — Name

The name of this organization shall be the Rotary

Community Corps of _____,

sponsored by the Rotary Club of _____.

SECTION B — Approval of Constitution

This organization shall be conducted in accordance with the Standard Rotary Community Corps Constitution as adopted by the Board of Directors of Rotary International.

SECTION C — Elections

1) Elections to choose the members of the leadership group shall be held annually prior to the _____ day of _____ in each year. The representative shall be elected by the leadership group within one week after their election. Those elected as the leadership group and the representative shall take office on the _____ day of _____ following their election.
2) Nominations for election to the leadership group shall be made in writing and filed with the representative at least one week before the regular meeting at which voting shall be held. Notice of the election shall be made at the regular meeting preceding the election. Voting shall be by secret ballot. Those candidates receiving a majority of the votes of the members present and in good standing shall be elected, provided a quorum is present at the meeting.

SECTION D — Duties of Officers

1) Representative. The representative shall preside at all regular and special meetings of the corps and of the leadership group. He or she shall, with the approval of the leadership group, fill all vacancies by appointment, until the next regular election of the corps. He or she shall be an ex officio member of all committees with the right to vote.
2) Treasurer. One member of the leadership group shall be treasurer and have custody of all corps funds, maintaining all necessary records, and depositing all such funds in a bank approved by the leadership group. The treasurer shall report on the corps' financial status at each meeting of the Corps and shall hold all records available for inspection by any member. All disbursements shall be by check which shall require the signatures of two authorized members of the leadership group.

SECTION E — Meetings

1) The corps and the leadership group shall each meet regularly at such time and place as they may determine. The corps shall meet at least once each month, and the leadership group shall meet at least once each month.
2) A majority of the members in good standing shall constitute a quorum at any regular or special meeting of the corps. Any four members of the leadership group shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the group.

SECTION F — Fees and Dues

1) The admission fee for new members shall be _____.

Annual dues shall be _____ paid at the rate of _____ per month.

2) All fees and dues must be paid before a member will be considered in good standing.

SECTION G — Committees

The representative, with approval of the leadership group, shall appoint the following standing committees:

1) Administrative. This committee shall be responsible for attendance, membership programs, fellowship, public relations, and such other matters as may be deemed appropriate.

2) Community service. This committee shall be responsible for formulating and developing projects designed to serve the community.

3) Vocational service. This committee shall be responsible for promoting integrity in all the corps' business dealings and initiating vocational service projects

4) Finance. This committee shall devise ways and means of financing any and all corps activities requiring funds and shall work in cooperation with the appropriate committees for such activities.

SECTION H — Amendments

1) These bylaws may be amended by majority vote of the members in good standing at any regular or special meeting of the corps at which a quorum is present, provided notice of intention to vote on such amendment is given at least 14 days earlier at a meeting of the corps at which a quorum is present, and provided such amendment is approved by the sponsoring Rotary club.

2) Nothing in these bylaws shall contravene any provision of the Rotary Community Corps Constitution as adopted by the Board of Directors of Rotary International.