

# BYLAWS OF THE UPSTATE NEW YORK CHAPTER OF THE SOCIALIST RIFLE ASSOCIATION



*Amended through October 2020*

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# CONSTITUTIONAL BYLAWS

## SECTION ZERO: DEFINITIONS AND SUPREMACY

The Socialist Rifle Association of Upstate New York is a chapter of the Socialist Rifle Association. References to the Socialist Rifle Association or “Organization” are to the national umbrella organization, whereas references to the "Chapter" refer to the Socialist Rifle Association of Upstate New York. This Chapter recognizes the supremacy of the Socialist Rifle Association bylaws, as ratified by the Membership of Socialist Rifle Association, and pledges to act in accordance with the Bylaws of the Socialist Rifle Association.

Unless otherwise specified, a vote of the membership shall be interpreted to mean a vote of full, verified members, and language referencing membership shall also be interpreted to mean full members, unless otherwise specified.

## ARTICLE ONE: AMENDMENTS

Constitutional bylaws may be amended, added, or removed by a two thirds majority vote by the membership. A minimum of two weeks will be given for this vote to be completed from the time that it is proposed during a chapter meeting.

Chapter Bylaws may be amended, added, or removed by a majority vote of the membership. The CCC will present all desired changes to the membership who will approve them in full or as line items. A minimum of one week will be given for this vote to be completed from the time it is proposed to the Chapter.

## ARTICLE TWO: CORE FUNCTIONS

### SECTION ONE: STATEMENT OF INTENT

The Socialist Rifle Association of Upstate New York promotes and advocates for the right of the working class and marginalized peoples to self defense and community defense. The Chapter seeks to provide a positive, leftist space for the discussion of firearms and other means of self defense. The Chapter additionally seeks to provide members with the ability to learn other valuable skills, such as first aid, radio operation, disaster response, and community advocacy. The Chapter will conduct itself ethically and in compliance with all applicable local, state, and federal laws. The Chapter will not advocate for or participate in non-defensive violence or destruction of property. The Chapter will always strive to be a positive and ethical force in the community to promote socialistic change and inclusiveness.

## **SECTION TWO: POINTS OF UNITY**

We are working class people dedicated to educating our class in the safe use of firearms for personal and community self-defense as well as encouraging and enabling education of all manner of skills related to community defense such as disaster relief, medicine, and agriculture. We are a multi-tendency association of social democrats, communists, and anarchists, etc. united by class, for our class. We respect one another's political stances and differences, especially when we disagree.

We are dedicated to Liberation and Freedom of ALL people and therefore oppose all forms of oppression and exploitation.

We are party to our local communities and act as such we volunteer in various ways to further the connections between leftist political radicals and the unorganized communities in which we live. We help feed, house and protect other working class and marginalized folks.

We stand against the disarmament of the working class. We are dedicated to arming the working class, both physically and mentally.

## **SECTION THREE: JURISDICTION**

The Chapter will cover all of New York state with the exception of the following counties: Putnam, Westchester, Rockland, Bronx, New York, Queens, Kings, Richmond, Nassau, and Suffolk counties.

The Chapter will be composed of five Branches: Capital, Central, Hudson Valley, North Country, and Western. Each member of Upstate NY will be a member of this Chapter and a member of one Branch.

## **SECTION FOUR: MEMBERSHIP**

Any individual who agrees with this Chapter's purpose and is not disqualified by the limitations listed in Article 3, Section 1 of the national bylaws may join as a provisional member by paying dues to the Socialist Rifle Association. Provisional members may not vote and may not attend Chapter events without the consent of the Central Committee of the Chapter. It is expected that provisional members who wish to continue to participate in Chapter activities will become full members.

### **Subsection One: Ascension**

To become a full member of the Organization and the Chapter, a provisional member shall undergo a basic verification process with the Chapter Onboarding Committee (OC) pursuant to Chapter bylaws. The OC investigate and interview prospective members to make the determination whether they should be accepted or rejected. Upon acceptance, a new member will be reported to the national Organization as a full and verified member.

### **Subsection Two: Expulsion**

A member may lose their membership in the Chapter by resigning or by expulsion from the group. Expulsion can take place if members of the Grievance Committee, defined in Article 3, Section 3, shall

have a majority vote that the member is guilty of gross misconduct whose decision is then which is then brought before the general membership for a two-thirds majority vote.

Alternatively, one fifth of the membership can petition in writing to remove a member for gross misconduct, followed by a two-thirds majority vote of the membership. These discussions may be made at a regular Chapter meeting, or an emergency discussion may be held earlier if a member poses a threat to another member's physical or emotional safety, or is engaged in wrecking (see Article One, Section Two of the Chapter Bylaws). Members shall propose a recommendation for a solution to the Grievance Committee according to Article 1, Section 5.

If a member is expelled from the chapter, the Director of Administration shall recommend the member's expulsion from the Organization to the Organization's Welfare Council, requiring a second from the Director of Outreach or the Secretary-Treasurer.

## **SECTION FIVE: VOTING**

Voting may take place for any matter ranging from daily business of the chapter to the amending of the constitution. Votes may take place publicly or confidentially. All votes concerning election or removal of leadership or removal of a member will be held confidentially. It is at the discretion of the leadership on how to hold a vote, however any member can request a confidential vote for any reason, at which time the leadership will provide a mechanism for it, otherwise whenever possible votes should take place publicly.

A sufficient quorum shall be not less than 20% of the full membership or 15 full members of the chapter. A sufficient quorum may enact any business of the chapter.

Meetings shall be conducted using "Robert's Rule of Order - Simplified" as defined here:  
<http://archive.theuniversityfaculty.cornell.edu/meetings/RobertsRulesSimplified.pdf>

## **ARTICLE THREE: LEADERSHIP**

### **SECTION ONE: STATEMENT OF INTENT**

The following positions will form the core of the Chapter Central Committee (hereafter referred to as the CCC) and be responsible for continued functioning of the Chapter. Elected members of the CCC may facilitate subcommittees as their position demands. Facilitators of subcommittees not enumerated in the Chapter Bylaws will also be considered part of the CCC. Pursuant to the Organization's mission of empowering marginalized people, not less than two of the Director of Administration, Director of Outreach, and Secretary-Treasurer positions shall be filled by members who are queer, trans, indigenous, of color, disabled, and/or non-men. If no eligible candidates are available that meet these criteria then it shall be open to others.

## **SECTION TWO: DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION**

The Director of Administration shall be the organizer of the Chapter, principally responsible for the organizing of meetings and the setting of agendas.

They shall distribute all significant updates and news from the Organization to the Chapter, and attend the monthly Chapter Leadership call hosted by the National Chapters Director.

They shall oversee the organizing of committees and ensure committees receive proper material and informational support.

They shall be elected by approval vote of the Chapter, with the candidate who receives the most approvals obtaining the position for a term of one year. In the event of a tie the winning candidates will have a chance to address the membership before a single choice majority vote is held.

They shall fulfill the Liaison role specified in the Organization Bylaws under Article Eight, Section Six, Subsection One.

## **SECTION THREE: DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH**

The Director of Outreach shall be the director of social media and outreach; responsible for the recruitment of new members, distribution of informational materials, and acting as a liaison between other organizations.

They shall be responsible for the organizing of meetings, setting of agendas, and attending national Chapter Leadership meetings in the absence of the Director of Administration.

They shall be elected by approval vote of the Chapter, with the candidate who receives the most approvals obtaining the position for a term of one year.

## **SECTION FOUR: ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVE**

The Assembly Representative(s) shall attend all regular meetings of the Assembly (one meeting every three months) and all irregular meetings. They may nominate themselves to serve on a Committee within the National Assembly, to be selected by approval voting from the Chapter.

Assembly Representatives may serve in a dual role in the Chapter Central Committee as Director of Administration, Director of Outreach, or Secretary-Treasurer.

Representatives shall consider all resolutions and motions presented to them in the Assembly and issue a vote on them: either yea, nay, or abstain. Representatives shall represent the desires of the Chapter, as discussed in Chapter meetings.

They shall be elected by approval vote of the Chapter, with the candidate(s) who receive(s) the most approvals obtaining the position for a term of one year.

They shall fulfill the Assemblymember role specified in the Organization Bylaws under Article Four.

## **SECTION FIVE: SECRETARY-TREASURER**

The Secretary-Treasurer shall maintain the chapter member roster and the chapter finances. They shall ensure that all full Chapter members will have access to the New York and Upstate New York Groups on the National Forum.

They shall certify votes of the chapter and ensure members receive sufficient correspondence regarding events and votes of the chapter.

Additionally, they shall have possession of the Chapter's spend card. They shall submit receipts to the National Financial Director for all expenditures by the Chapter on the spend card. They shall maintain a ledger of the Chapter's expenditures and revenues and submit an annual report thereof every January to the Financial Director. The Secretary-Treasurer shall duly execute purchases authorized by the Chapter membership, as discussed at a Chapter meeting.

The Secretary-Treasurer shall make an itemized report of the incoming and outgoing funds to the Chapter each month during the Chapter meeting. In the case that they are unable to attend a meeting, they shall appoint a temporary stand-in to present the report.

They shall be elected by approval vote of the chapter, with the candidate who receives the most approvals obtaining the position for a term of six months.

They shall fulfill both the Secretary and Treasurer roles specified in the Organization Bylaws under Article Eight, Section Six, Subsections Two and Three.

## **SECTION SIX: BRANCH COORDINATORS**

The Branch Coordinators shall represent their Branch's membership in the Chapter Central Committee (CCC) and provide coordination for each Branch within the Chapter.

They shall be elected by approval vote of each of the Branches, with the candidate who receives the most approvals obtaining the position for a term of one year.

## **SECTION SEVEN: REMOVAL**

Any member in a leadership position may be removed from their position for misconduct or loss of eligibility. This may be initiated by 1) a petition from one fifth of the membership 2) a vote of no confidence from the Assembly of the Organization, or 3) removal by the Welfare Council of the Organization.

If the individual has lost eligibility to be in their position on grounds of a change in qualifications as determined by this Chapter or by the Socialist Rifle Association, their removal shall be effective immediately upon majority approval of the membership.

If the individual is being charged with a violation of their office or the bylaws, at least two weeks will be given for the membership and committee to prepare. During the next eligible meeting, the

membership will review all evidence presented and vote on removal. Removal will require a two thirds affirmative vote.

This section shall apply to roles as they pertain to this Chapter. Removal from any nationally elected position shall follow the Bylaws of the Organization.

## **ARTICLE FOUR: INOPERABLE CLAUSE**

In the event that the Chapter is rendered nonfunctional due to consistent lack of quorum or the consistent absence of leadership, any member of the CCC may invoke the ratification procedure of the Chapter's charter with a one month waiting period and all reasonable effort will be taken to notify current members that the Chapter will be doing so.

## **ARTICLE FIVE: REORGANIZATION**

### **SECTION 1: SEPARATION**

In the advent of the SRA Organization being a rendered defunct, the chapter, upon a majority vote, may become an independent organization. In such event, the membership will convene to remove all references to the Organization from the Constitutional and Chapter Bylaws and provide further structure to the Chapter.

### **SECTION 2: BRANCH SECESSION**

A Branch Coordinator may notify the CCC of a Branch's intention to separate from the Chapter and form a new chapter within the Organization's framework. After a two week period, a full vote of all members of that Branch will be conducted to determine secession. A two-thirds majority is required for separation. The new chapter's constitution and chapter bylaws will be duplicates of this Chapter's Bylaws (with the exception of Article II, Section 3 and Article III, Section 6) until the new chapter can ratify a new constitution. The Branch Coordinator will assume the new chapter's office of Director of Administration. This Chapter's Secretary-Treasurer and the new chapter's Director of Administration will make a determination on when to allocate collected resources between the chapters.

### **SECTION 3: BRANCH REORGANIZATION**

If at any time there are fewer than 5 members of a Branch, that Branch may vote to dissolve itself and join with another Branch, with members of the defunct Branch becoming members of the joined Branch. Alternatively, the members of the Branch may declare themselves temporarily unorganized. Each member of the Branch may then temporarily organize with a near Branch. The unorganized Branch will not elected a Branch Coordinator, but each member may participate in elections and decision-making with their selected Branch. Once above 5 members, the unorganized Branch may reorganize and take their place with the other Branches.

Members of a Branch may petition the CCC to form a new Branch within the Chapter out of geographic territory of a current Branch. Upon approval from the CCC and a majority vote of the current Branch's membership, the new Branch will be formed and added to the Chapter. The new Branch will convene to elect a Branch Coordinator. The CCC will then convene at the next opportunity to revise the Constitutional Bylaws and to define the new Branch borders.

## **ARTICLE SIX: RATIFICATION**

Pursuant to the former Article 9 of the Socialist Rifle Association Bylaws, the Socialist Rifle Association of Upstate New York formally ratified these bylaws on Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup> 2019. Seven ayes, zero nays, were witnessed by Chapter Organizer [REDACTED]. The Central Committee of the Socialist Rifle Association granted recognition of this ratification Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

These Bylaws were updated pursuant to Article 10 of the revised Socialist Rifle Association Bylaws on October 6, 2020. 68 ayes, 1 nay, and 6 abstain were witnessed by Chapter Organizer [REDACTED].

# CHAPTER BYLAWS

## ARTICLE ONE: CONDUCT

### SECTION ONE: CODE OF CONDUCT

Members are expected to follow basic rules of conduct while at meetings or at events being hosted or participated in by the Chapter. Failure to adhere to these rules can be grounds for disciplinary action, ranging from informal warnings up to a vote to expel the member as outlined in the constitution.

### SECTION TWO: MEMBERSHIP CONDUCT

Members are expected to be respectful to others at all times. Feuding and fighting does not benefit the organization or the movement.

Members will not make any public statement on behalf of the organization as a whole without the unanimous consent of the CCC and/or unanimous consent of all Chapter members not serving on the CCC.

Members will not violate the privacy of any members by committing acts such as, but not limited to: sharing personal, identifying information of other members and posting or sharing photos or videos exposing the identity of other members. If members wish to share information about other members, they are expected to only act upon the explicit consent of the members to be identified.

#### **Subsection One: Discrimination, Harassment, and Violence**

The Socialist Rifle Association is an inclusive organization. Discrimination on the grounds of ethnicity, race, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, political beliefs, or disability is not allowed. Due to the fact that some political beliefs are incompatible with this rule, members who voice support for fascism or other discriminatory political ideologies will be sanctioned appropriately, up to and including expulsion.

Not adhering to a purely socialistic ideology is not grounds for expulsion from the membership. Any individual may be a member if they agree with the core mission statement of advocating for the working class to possess arms for defense of self and the community. It should be understood, however, that the purpose of this is for socialistic ends.

Harassing, menacing, violent, or retaliatory behaviors of any kind will not be tolerated. Sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature which makes a person feel offended, humiliated, or intimidated and will not be tolerated. Any expression of sexual harassment and/or violence whether it be physical, verbal, or nonverbal will not be tolerated.

The Chapter encourages confidential reporting of all perceived incidents of discrimination, harassment, menacing, retaliation, or violence, regardless of the offender's identity or position within the organization. Any member may at any time present a grievance of discrimination, harassment, menacing, retaliation or sexual harassment to any member of the CCC, who will keep it in strict confidence. Should the member not feel comfortable presenting this grievance to the CCC, they have the right to speak directly and privately to the Organization's Welfare Council. As such, any offending members facing allegations of misconduct both within and without the Organization will be sanctioned appropriately, up to and including expulsion.

Any individual found to be an abuser or to have engaged in harassment or expressed racist, sexist, fascist, reactionary, or exclusionary social ideologies outside of the organization will be considered for expulsion from the organization by the by the Grievance Committee.

When any member is expelled from the organization, announcement of membership termination of said member will be announced for security reasons. This announcement will be made on approval of any other involved members at the earliest opportunity.

### **Subsection Two: Use of Mind-Altering Substances**

Use of alcohol and other mind altering recreational substances as well as being under the influence of alcohol or such substances is prohibited at Chapter sponsored events including but not limited to general meetings, skills workshops, and range days. It is each member's own responsibility to ensure they are physically and mentally capable of safely operating a firearm.

However, the presence and consumption of alcoholic drinks is allowed during Chapter sponsored social events such as holiday parties only if the following criteria is met: (1) Absolutely no firearms, ammunition, or firearms parts are present, including concealed carry, (2) a general consensus is met by the attending members for the allowance of alcoholic drinks, and (3) the member(s) providing the alcoholic drink notifies the membership what they will be bringing prior to the event. If one (1) attending member states discomfort or disagreement with the presence of alcohol before or during the event, alcohol and being under the influence of alcohol will be prohibited at the event. In all cases, should any person, member or guest, make bigoted remarks, sexually harass others, or attempt to physically assault others, they will be dealt with and disciplined on a case-by-case basis with consideration of all members.

### **Subsection Three: Chapter Participation**

Members are required to participate in the Chapter, per Article Eight Section Five Subsection Two, as well as Article Three Section Six Subsection Four. The Secretary-Treasurer shall contact members who have been absent from meetings and events for no less than three (3) months and remind them of their duties to the chapter. Should the member be unable to be reached or fails to attend any meetings or events one (1) month after being contacted the issue shall be brought before the chapter membership who will vote on an action to take in this regard. Members who inform the CCC about their absences and their reasons shall be considered to be participating and therefore not in violation of their duties to

the chapter. If a member's ascension is revoked, the Chapter Secretary-Treasurer shall notify the member within 24 hours by email, and copy the National Records Director and the Chair of the Organization's Welfare Council.

### **SECTION THREE: FIREARM CONDUCT**

Members should understand that the Socialist Rifle Association advocates for the use and responsible proliferation of firearms for the defense of self and the community. When members are using firearms at Chapter events or in personal use, they must always observe the four rules of firearms:

- All guns are always loaded.
- Never point a firearm at anything you are not willing to kill or destroy.
- Never place your finger on the trigger until you are ready to fire.
- Always know what is behind your target.

Members must be aware of local firearm regulations and applicable laws such as the New York state SAFE Act and any firearms brought to chapter events must be compliant with these laws. Firearms must be in good operating condition so that they do not pose any additional danger. The Chapter will work to provide resources on these topics.

At the time of this writing the following federal and state laws are applicable to the possession of long guns. Possession of a handgun requires a firearms license issued by the State of New York.

Federal law prohibits certain persons from purchasing or possessing firearms, such as felons, certain domestic abusers, and certain people with a history of mental illness.

New York law prohibits any person who is not a citizen of the United States from possessing any firearm. The state also prohibits an individual from possessing a long gun if he or she:

- Has been certified not suitable to possess a long gun by the director or physician in charge of a hospital or institution for mental illness; or
- Has been convicted of a felony or "serious offense," which at the time of this writing is defined to include:
  - Illegally using, carrying or possessing a handgun or other dangerous weapon;
  - Making or possessing burglar's instruments;
  - Buying or receiving stolen property;
  - Unlawful entry into a building;
  - Aiding escape from prison;
  - Certain kinds of disorderly conduct;
  - Certain drug offenses or crimes involving sodomy or rape;

- Child endangerment;
- Certain crimes permitting or promoting prostitution;
- Certain kinds of stalking; and
- Certain violent or threatening crimes committed against a member of the same family or household, including assault, strangulation, menacing, harassment, and trespass.

Should any member in a leadership role learn that a member is in possession of a firearm unlawfully, that leader will restrict the member from participating in firearm-related activities until the situation can be discussed with the member and resolved.

Due to the political nature of the Socialist Rifle Association, members may find themselves under increased scrutiny for their activities. The Chapter will work to provide resources and guest speakers for workshops that will assist the membership in interactions with law enforcement and the general public.

If a member doesn't know how to safely operate a firearm, they should not operate it until being shown how to by someone who can safely operate the firearm, having been determined by members of the Range Operations Committee and/or by the CCC.

No member or guest may attend a chapter range day without first participating in a brief firearms safety discussion with a member of the Range Operations Committee.

Guests of Members may be permitted to attend to range days or other firearms related trainings or events, provided all the following conditions are met: 1) They are known to the chapter's membership to be a comrade, 2) The consensus of the event's attendees approves of the guest attending, and 3) a unanimous decision by the CCC to allow the guest to attend is made.

## **SECTION FOUR: REPORTING PROCESS**

Members may report violations of these codes of conduct to any member of the CCC, who shall then investigate the report by questioning relevant persons. When appropriate, the CCC may approach the aggrieved party and see if they assent to third-party remediation. If the offending party also assent, the CCC will arrange mediation between the members. Otherwise, the CCC will form the Grievance Committee (GC) in accordance with Article III, Section 3.

Following the conclusion of the investigation, the GC shall present a recommendation to the CCC. Notwithstanding Article II, Section 4, Subsection 4 ("Expulsions") of the Constitutional Bylaws, the CCC will approve any action by a majority vote. If the CCC does not vote to take action, the decision will fall to the Chapter membership.

## **SECTION FIVE: DISCIPLINARY MEASURES**

The measures available to the membership for addressing violations of the Chapter's Code of Conduct shall include, but should not be considered to be limited to the following:

1. A warning to the offending person.
2. One or more restorative measures, to be completed as promptly as possible.
3. A temporary ban from interaction with the affected person(s).
4. A temporary ban from Chapter Events.
5. A temporary censure from Chapter Meetings.
6. Temporary expulsion from the Organization.
7. Permanent expulsion from the Organization.

These measures should not be considered mutually exclusive by default, and in all cases excepting permanent expulsion, the offender shall always have the ability to adhere to agreed-upon restorative measures to address their harm. This agreement may be mediated by the CWMC, the membership as a whole, by certain members selected by the affected person(s), or not at all, according to the express wishes of the affected person(s). However, completion of these measures shall in no way obligate a return to pre-existing relationships prior to the disciplinary measure(s) being implemented, and in no way does this imply that completing one measure means that another measure, being previously agreed on, does not need to be completed.

## **ARTICLE TWO: MEETINGS**

### **SECTION ONE: GENERAL MEETINGS**

General Meetings will be held at least one meeting a month, as determined by a quarterly poll of the membership. Locations shall be exclusively made available exclusively to full members, in the interest of Chapter safety and orderly conduct or shall be made available exclusively to full members in an online video conference.

The Director of Administration shall publish the proposed agenda of the Chapter meeting on internal Chapter communications platforms not later than five days prior to the general meeting. The time between publication and the general meeting shall be the period of additional commentary. Members should feel empowered to suggest other agenda items to be discussed during this and any other time.

The agenda shall be structured as follows: first, the Director of Outreach will announce new members and allow the new members to make introductions and to give their preferred pronouns, and any other small icebreakers. Second, the rest of the membership shall introduce themselves in the same manner. Third, the Director of Administration will present a report of all relevant news from the Organization. Fourth, the Secretary-Treasurer shall give an itemized report of all financial expenditures of the Chapter from the period between the last meeting and the current meeting. Fifth, the floor shall be given to the membership to discuss any other old business and give reports on recently-concluded projects or events relevant to the Chapter.

The agenda shall move to the discussion of current and ongoing projects either internal to the Chapter or being undertaken by organizations in the community.

Following the conclusion of current projects, the agenda shall move to the discussion of new business. Further action shall be discussed and consented to by the membership, or if no consensus can be made, the issue shall be either tabled or dropped, again subject to the consent of the membership. The meeting chair can adjourn the meeting if it extends beyond the planned meeting length and can initiate a vote to table a discussion if it extends beyond the time allotted in the meeting agenda.

Following the conclusion of new business, the meeting shall adjourn.

## **SECTION TWO: EVENT SCHEDULE**

At the December General Meeting, the Chapter membership shall meet and propose the Event Schedule for the upcoming year. Unless otherwise specified, there shall be an Event every third or fourth Saturday of the month, totalling four Events each quarter. Two of these Events shall be Range Days, one Event shall be a Workshop, and there shall also be one Camping Trip every quarter, excepting the fourth quarter.

For each Event, there shall be one Sponsor, determined at the General Meeting wherein the Event Schedule was approved. There shall not be Events without Sponsors. Sponsors shall be members willing to take on the responsibility of managing logistics, communication, coordination and safety for the Event, to be advised where relevant by a Representative of the Range Operations Committee (see Article 3, Section 2).

Events shall be planned by the appropriate subcommittee and approved by the CCC with sufficient notice given to membership for their attendance and consideration. Due to the geographic size of the chapter, the appropriate committee shall make a concerted effort to ensure proportional and fair geographic representation.

### **Subsection One: Range Days**

Range Days shall be held at least monthly where weather is permitting. Ranges shall be selected on a rotational basis, in such a way that two Range Days in a row are not held within the same region of the Chapter's core or secondary jurisdictions within a one month period. Sponsors of the Range Day shall arrive at a reasonably early time to determine the safety and suitability of the range, and shall make a report to the Chapter membership using the appropriate internal communications platform(s) of their findings.

If it should be determined that a range is unsafe (such as having reactionary elements that would make it unreasonably unsafe for members of marginalized communities) or unsuitable (such as being closed, or having restrictions that would make it difficult to utilize using available member firearms), the membership shall determine the best course of action for the day.

No member may attend a chapter Range Day without first attending one (1) General Meeting in person. Members who have attended one Range Day can sponsor one (1) non-member as a guest at Range Days, subject to the approval of the Range Operations Committee.

### **Subsection Two: Workshops**

Workshops may be held periodically. Workshops shall focus on a particular skill relevant to firearms ownership (such as reloading, trauma medicine or legal information) or on developing anti-oppression skills (such as anti-racism). No member may attend a chapter Workshop without first attending one (1) General Meeting unless the chapter Workshop is designated to be open to the general public. A member may sponsor one (1) non-member as a guest at Workshops, subject to the approval of the general membership. Workshops, whether restricted to members only or open to the public, must be approved by the CCC.

### **Subsection Three: Camping Trips**

Camping Trips may be held periodically. Prior to the official start date, a preliminary scouting party, consisting of at least one member of the Range Operations Committee and one other member, shall physically inspect the safety and suitability of routes, camping sites and places to set up ranges. No guests are permitted at Camping Trips. No member may attend a Camping Trip without first attending one (1) General Meeting as well as either one (1) Range Day or a special evaluation with a member of the Range Operations Committee. Due to the complicated and remote nature of Camping Trips, the on-site members of the Range Operations Committee as a whole shall perform the duties of the Sponsor and Representative.

## **SECTION THREE: SPECIAL EVENTS**

Pursuant to the Socialist Rifle Association's core mission of reaching out to marginalized communities and empowering them through firearms education and mutual aid, the Chapter may, in an official capacity, attend bookfairs, festivals, parades or other events which focus on the aforesaid marginalized communities, the attendance of which shall be proposed at a General Meeting not later than four months from the event's registration deadline. A list of relevant fees or other costs (e.g. for banners, print materials, et cetera) shall be presented to the membership at the Meeting, and funded by the Secretary-Treasurer if the attendance is approved by the membership.

## **SECTION FOUR: NON-CHAPTER EVENTS**

The Chapter may participate in an official capacity, in part or in whole, in events organized by other organizations which support the Chapter's core mission of empowering marginalized communities. Participation in these events must be approved by the Chapter membership at a General Meeting. Said other organizations shall not have positions which run counter to the Organization or Chapter's mission; if it is determined that this is the case, the Chapter is empowered to cease involvement in the event immediately.

### **Subsection One: Unaffiliated Organization Work**

Neither the Chapter nor the Organization need officially sanction membership involvement in ongoing projects that align with the overall mission of the Organization in their community as individuals, and therefore they shall not be conducted under either the Chapter or Organization's name. However, members should feel encouraged to seek out and assist with these projects, and should be encouraged to report on their experiences in General Meetings.

## **ARTICLE THREE: COMMITTEES**

### **SECTION ONE: ONBOARDING COMMITTEE**

The Onboarding Committee (OC) shall be chaired by the Director of Outreach of the Chapter and shall be responsible for conducting interviews with provisional members of the Chapter. With each prospective member, the OC will conduct a full investigation that includes an interview to make a determination.

OC members shall be appointed by the CCC with the advice of the OC Chair. The OC Chair will be selected by the current members of the OC. They shall hold their positions indefinitely unless they resign, are removed as per Article III, Section 7 of the Constitutional Bylaws, or become inactive in the OC for a period greater than 3 months.

### **Subsection One: Provisional Member Evaluation Procedure**

#### **1. Initial Contact**

A provisional member shall be contacted by a member of the OC for basic information to include their name, email, pronouns, location, national membership status, and availability for an interview.

#### **2. Investigation and Interview**

The OC shall conduct an preliminary investigation of the provisional member including their social media presence, contact with SRA members, and participation in other leftist endeavors. When possible, an in-person interview will be conducted though a remote interview is permissible if an in-person interview presents an undue hardship.

The interview shall be held in an open, public space, and not less than two members of the OC shall conduct the interview with the provisional member. No more than one provisional member may be interviewed at a time. In circumstances where there is a suspicion of the genuinity of the provisional member, three senior members of the OC shall conduct the interview. A senior member of the OC is defined as an OC member who has attended at least five (5) onboarding interviews.

If providing two interviewers proves to be an undue hardship, a majority vote of the OC may allow the one OC member and one Upstate NY Chapter member not on the OC to interview the provisional member.

This interview shall consist, at minimum, questions regarding the provisional member's reasons for joining the SRA, what brought them to a leftist understanding, their goals for their participation in the SRA, what they would like to see the SRA doing, their previous involvement in leftist organizing, mutual aid and/or direct action, and their involvement in communities that the Socialist Rifle Association has a vested interest in getting involved with; i.e. those stated in Article Two, Section One. The Onboarding Committee will maintain an up-to-date Standard Operating Procedure with questions to ask the new member. Other full members of the Chapter may, at times, suggest new questions.

### **3. Determination**

Following the interview the interviewer will present a report to the OC, and the the OC shall discuss the provisional member and make a determination of approved, rejected, or further investigation warranted.

If the OC determines that further investigation is warranted, the OC will decide what information, including addition interviews, is needed to make a final determination. The OC may also instruct the provisional member to attend Chapter meetings or events to allow the provisional member to socialize with Chapter members to better make a permanent determination.

If the OC determines that the provisional member is rejected, all communications with the provisional member shall cease, their records of membership expunged, a report of the incident will be provided to the CCC, and the Organization's Welfare Council will be informed.

If the OC determines that the provisional member is approved, the new member will be notified and added to official chapter communication platforms and considered a full member of the chapter and of the SRA. The new member shall be instructed to attend the next possible Chapter meeting before participating in an official range event.

The OC may provide for a threshold for determination with a majority vote.

The Chapter may enact further clarifying policies on the exploratory interview process by majority vote of the membership, as proposed by the OC.

## **SECTION TWO: RANGE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

The Range Operations Committee (hereafter the ROC) shall be composed of Chapter members with advanced, professional knowledge of firearms safety. Examples of this include, but are not limited to, former combat arms servicemembers, firearms instructors and range safety officers. ROC members should be intensely aware that they are taking the safety of the larger membership in their hands, and should make their decisions accordingly.

The ROC shall provide at least one Representative for each Range Day. This shall be distinct from the Sponsor of the Event (see Article 2, Section 2, Paragraph 2); the purpose of the Representative is to offer guidance and oversight to the Sponsor, in the interest of member welfare. At Camping Trips, due to the complicated and remote nature of the Event, the on-site members of the ROC as a whole shall fulfill the duties of the Sponsor and Representative.

The ROC may draft and clarify rules for safety and firearms operation. The rules will then be published on Chapter communication platforms. Violations of these rules will be considered a disciplinary matter as per Article I, Section 3.

The ROC may also evaluate the firearms safety knowledge of members looking to attend a Camping Trip who have not been able to attend the requisite Range Days. The principal reason that this would happen would be that a member joins the Chapter after a Range Day, having already attended a General Meeting, but before a Camping Trip, and would like to still participate.

The ROC shall also approve the guests of members attending a Range Day, as stipulated in Article Two, Section 2, Subsection 1.

Pursuant to Article 2, Section 2, Subsection 3, the ROC shall provide at least one Committee member to scout out the suitability and safety of routes, campsites and potential ranges on Camping Trips.

Pursuant to Article 1, Section 3, Paragraph 6, the ROC shall be able to certify, in conjunction with the CCC, the ability of inexperienced members to safely handle firearms.

### **SECTION THREE: GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE**

The Grievance Committee (GC) shall be formed as stipulated in Article I, Section 4, Subsection 2 of the Constitutional Bylaws. It shall be dissolved when it is determined by the GC or the affected person that the situation is stable.

The GC will be an odd number of members and be selected from a pool of volunteers from the membership. Volunteers should be impartial, as far as possible. The GC shall be no less than three members.

Any member not under investigation may nominate another member to sit on the GC for the GC's tenure. Before dissolving, the GC will present a full report to the CCC. That report will include a recommendation to include disciplinary measures in accordance with Article I, Section 5.

If the matter is determined to be of a sensitive nature by the CCC, the GC may be formed without official notification of the Chapter. The CCC may appoint members to the GC in such cases, though no member of the GC may also be a member of the CCC. After a final determination of the sensitive matter, the CCC will provide a full report to the Chapter membership.

The GC may suspend use of communication platforms and participation in chapter events to an investigated member for the duration of an investigation. The temporary suspension will expire after the GC's final report to the CCC.

The GC will maintain the confidentiality of their investigation unless said confidentiality would endanger others or the stability of the Chapter. When requested by a member, the GC will maintain the confidentiality of any report to the limit of safety.

## **SECTION FOUR: MUTUAL AID COMMITTEE**

The Mutual Aid Committee (hereafter known as the MAC) shall be composed of members with the time and dedication to provide a mutual aid network throughout New York and elsewhere. Members of the MAC shall be encouraged to pursue training in disaster relief, search and rescue, first aid, and communications.

The MAC shall pursue fundraising to procure supplies and training to provide aid to those in need. The MAC will also work with national and regional SRAid Mutual Aid leadership.