



**Renters And Housing Union Incorporated (RAHU)**

**The Constitution**

As amended January 2023

## Preamble

As renters we are by definition not the owning class, and are at the frontline of facing housing precarity.

We acknowledge that the land on which we live was stolen from First Nations peoples, and as the custodians of these lands, their sovereignty has never been ceded. We are committed to the cause of decolonisation through acts of our organisation, including 'paying the rent' to First Nations peoples.

The human right to a safe, secure home should not be determined by capital, nor those who seek to make profit in exploitation of this right.

As such we don't endorse any political party nor take direction or influence from any political party related to government.

We are renters and people in precarious housing from all industries, ethnicities and identities. Through our shared commonalities, we commit to upholding our rights in union. Solidarity is our weapon.

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## **Article I: Name and Purpose**

Section 2: The name of the organisation shall be the Renters and Housing Union. The abbreviated name shall be RAHU. Herein it will be referred to as “the Union.”

Section 3: The purpose shall be for renters and people in precarious housing to self-organise collectively to establish, defend and uphold the right to safe and secure housing through self-advocacy, representation, education, and frontline eviction defence.

## **Article II: Membership**

Section 2: Union members will be people who rent their home address; be it private or public tenancy; of formal or informal tenancy agreement; squatters; homeless persons; and all people in precarious housing. No one shall be excluded due to race, ethnicity, gender or sexual diversity, nationality, creed, disability, or any other non-economic criterion other than as outlined in Section 2.

Section 3: Landlords, real estate agents, property managers, social housing providers, police officers, bailiffs, sheriffs and any other person whose economic position or employment is inconsistent with the purpose of the Union shall not be eligible for membership of the Union.

Section 4: Homeowners who are not landlords may join as Solidarity Members, but will not be voting members, nor be able to hold an officer position within the Union.

Section 5: A new member application can be challenged by any member in good standing, as defined in Article VI, Section 3 (f), on the basis of eligibility for membership or suitability based on past known behaviour. Such challenges will be heard by the Branch to which the member application has been made or, if no Branch exists, by the Delegates Committee. Acceptance or denial of the application will be made by a majority vote. A Branch’s decision can be appealed to the Delegates Committee.

Section 6: All members shall agree to abide by the rules of the Union and make themselves acquainted with its purpose. This obligation shall be clearly stated on all membership applications.

Section 7: Members in good standing have the right to examine all Union records that do not contain private personal information. This includes, but is not limited to, archives of the Delegate Committee email list, meeting notes and financial records. A member who wishes to examine any records shall make a written request to the Secretary detailing the records they wish to examine. The Secretary will then have 14 days to fulfill this request.

## **Article III: Structure**

### Section 1:

- a. The Union will be composed of Committees and Branches.
- b. The boundaries of Branches will be determined by the Delegate Committee.
- c. New Branches must be approved by the Delegate Committee and have no fewer than five members.

### Section 2: Branches

- a. Each branch will elect a number of Delegates, with a minimum of 1.
- b. The number of Delegates for each branch will be determined by the size of the branch, with an aim of one delegate per 20 members.
- c. Each branch may elect a Branch Secretary and Branch Treasurer.

### Section 3: Branch Accounts

- a. Each branch with a Branch Secretary may request a branch bank account from the Treasurer, to which the Treasurer; Branch Secretary; and Branch Treasurer, if one exists, will be signatories, and one branch Delegate may be signatory.
- b. Should a branch lack a Branch Treasurer, at least one branch Delegate must be a signatory to that branch's account, and the Branch Secretary shall be responsible for the account.
- c. Expenses from branch bank accounts will be at the discretion of the branch for which the account was made.
- d. Branches may allocate budgets. Spending within such budgets is at the discretion of the Branch Secretary and Branch Treasurer.
- e. On dissolution of a branch, the branch's account will be closed and remaining funds reabsorbed into general union funds.
- f. Should a branch lack a Branch Secretary for more than 3 months, the branch's account will be closed and remaining funds shall be reabsorbed into general union funds.

## **Article IV: Governing Committee**

### **Section 1: Secretary**

- a. The Secretary shall be responsible for maintaining accurate membership lists, archives of Delegate Committee and General Membership Meeting notes, providing quarterly and annual written reports to the membership, producing the annual referendum ballot, and ensuring the production of a quarterly membership bulletin by the Communications Committee.
- b. The Secretary will act as Chair of the Delegate Committee, will convene Delegate Committee meetings, and will provide Delegates with a draft agenda no fewer than 21 days beforehand.
- c. The Secretary will be responsible for convening Delegate Committee meetings and shall provide Delegates with a draft agenda no less than 30 days beforehand.
- d. The Secretary shall be elected by members in good standing annually as part of the annual referendum.
- e. The Secretary shall be a signatory on the Union's bank accounts.

### **Section 2: Assistant Secretary of Campaigns**

- a. The Assistant Secretary of Campaigns shall be responsible for the coordination of strategic advocacy and campaigns of the Union
- b. The Assistant Secretary of Campaigns shall be elected by members in good standing annually as part of the annual referendum.

### **Section 3: Assistant Secretary of Operations**

- a. The Assistant Secretary of Operations shall develop, maintain, and improve all digital systems for the Union as required.
- b. The Assistant Secretary of Operations shall be elected by members in good standing annually as part of the annual referendum.

### **Section 4: Treasurer**

- a. The Treasurer shall be responsible for managing the Union's bank accounts and funds, keeping accurate financial records and providing quarterly and annual written reports to the membership.
- b. The Treasurer will take, compile and distribute the minutes of the Delegate Committee.
- c. The Treasurer shall be elected by members in good standing annually as part of the annual referendum.
- d. The Treasurer shall be a signatory on the Union's bank accounts.

### **Section 5: Assistant Treasurer of Membership**

- a. The Assistant Treasurer of Membership shall ensure the membership are in good standing, and maintain accurate records of the Union members' financial standing.
- b. The Assistant Treasurer of Membership shall be elected by members in good standing annually as part of the annual referendum.

## Section 6: Assistant Treasurer of Expenditure

- a. The Assistant Treasurer of Expenditure shall maintain accurate records of Union budgets, and ensure that Union budgets are not exceeded.
- b. The Assistant Treasurer of Expenditure shall execute all authorised expenses of the Union.
- c. The Assistant Treasurer of Expenditure shall be a signatory on an expenses account of the Union.
- d. The Assistant Treasurer of Expenditure shall be elected by members in good standing annually as part of the annual referendum.

## Section 7: Branch Secretaries

- a. Branch Secretaries will be primarily responsible for coordinating branch meetings. Should a branch lack a Branch Treasurer, the Branch Secretary shall perform their duties.
- b. Branch Secretaries will be elected by members in good standing of the relevant branch, by the Constitution's Election procedures.
- c. Branch Secretaries will be signatories to the relevant branch's bank account, should one exist.

## Section 8: Branch Treasurers

- a. Branch Treasurers will be responsible for managing the relevant branch's bank accounts, membership records, and merchandise inventory.

### Section 1:

- b. Branch Treasurers will be elected by members in good standing of the relevant branch, by the Constitution's Election procedures.
- c. Branch Treasurers will be signatories to the relevant branch's bank account, should one exist.

## Section 9: Committee Chairs

- a. Committee Chairs shall be responsible for calling and organising the meetings of their committee, managing their Committee's bank account and funds, keeping good records which members can examine, and providing quarterly and annual written reports to the membership.
- b. Committee Chairs shall be elected as described in Article IX, Section 1 (b) and (c).

## Section 10: Media & Communications Officer

- a. There will be a Media & Communications Officer who acts as Chair of the Communications Committee.
- b. The Media & Communications Officer will be responsible for ensuring the Communications Committee meets their responsibilities as per Article IX Section 3
- c. The Communications Officer shall be responsible for mailing the bulletin to individual members who request a paper copy, to be reimbursed by the Union for printing and postage.

- d. The Media & Communications Officer shall be elected by members in good standing annually as part of the annual referendum.

#### Section 11: Removal of Officers

- a. All office bearers are subject to removal, which shall be initiated by a petition of 10 percent of all Union members in good standing as of the most recent 1 January. b. The petition must be delivered to the Delegate Committee and shared with the officer being removed.
- b. A removal vote must be conducted within 45 days of receipt of the petition. All parties must have a fair opportunity to publish a statement on the ballot.
- c. A successful removal vote triggers a by-election for the position in question. This election must happen within two weeks of the removal vote.
- d. If an officer is replaced, their substitution will only serve out the remainder of the initial term.
- e. Delegates may be removed by the same process, but only by the members of their Branch.

#### Section 12: Resignations

- a. In the event that an Officer wishes to resign from their position, they must notify the Secretary in writing.
- b. The application of resignation must be presented by the resigning Officer at the next Delegates Committee meeting
- c. The resigning Officer must provide a minimum of 4 weeks notice, and is responsible for conducting a comprehensive handover for the duration of the first month with the newly elected officer replacing their position.

#### Section 13: Committees

- a. A Committee to focus on a specific topic may be formed or abolished by a vote of the Delegate Committee. There may be committees formed such as; Public Housing Committee, Homeless &/or No Fixed Address Committee; Gender Equity, LGBTQIA & GNC Committee; Migrant & Temp. Visa Holders Committee; First Nations Committee
- b. A Committee Chair shall be elected at the next General Membership Meeting after a committee is formed.
- c. Thereafter, until the committee is abolished, the Committee Chair shall be subject to election as part of the annual officer elections, as described in Article V.
- d. Committees are to make decisions democratically regarding matters under the topics for which they were created.
- e. All committees are to be accountable to the Union and shall report in writing in the quarterly bulletin.



- f. Committees to make their own rules about membership requirements.

#### Section 14: Media & Communications Committee

- a. There shall be a standing Media and Communications Committee.
- b. The Media and Communications Committee shall be responsible for the management of the Union's website and social media accounts, the overseeing union email accounts, and for compiling a quarterly internal bulletin, to be published in January, April, July and October.
- c. The Media and Communications Committee shall send an electronic copy of the internal bulletin to all members of the Union
- d. The Communications Officer shall be responsible for mailing the bulletin to individual members who request a paper copy, to be reimbursed by the Union for printing and postage.
- e. The Communications Committee shall ensure that the Union has a contact point within the Committee for facilitating media requests, and ensuring the production of all Media Releases and public communiques by the Union.

## **Article V: Branches**

### Section 1: Delegates

- a. Delegates are elected by a Branch to be the voice and vote of its members on the Delegate Committee.
- b. The Branch is responsible for electing these representatives by whatever method it deems appropriate.
- c. A Delegate is subject to removal only by the Branch that elected that Delegate.
- d. It is the responsibility of Delegates to advise their Branch when Delegate Committee meetings will occur, and consult their Branch and receive instructions on how to vote on administrative decisions.
- e. It is the responsibility of the Branch to provide timely and adequate instructions to their Delegate on how to vote on administrative decisions.
- a. If the Branch fails to provide such instructions to the Delegate, the Delegate may vote as they deem appropriate.

### Section 2:

- a. Branches shall set their meeting interval at their discretion, but shall meet no less than once per month.
- b. Quorum at Branch meetings shall be a minimum of 5 members in good standing, or 50% of the Branch's membership, whichever is lower

Section 8: Decisions at all meetings of the Union and its bodies shall be made by majority vote of the members in good standing present.

## **Article VI: Delegate Committee**

### Section 9: Delegate Committee

- a. All Delegates will sit on a Delegate Committee.
- b. The Delegate Committee shall be made up of the Secretary, Treasurer and all elected Delegates of authorised branches.
- c. The Secretary and Treasurer will have voice, but no vote, in the Delegate Committee.
- d. The duty of the Delegate Committee will be to make administrative decisions for the running of the Union between the meetings of the General Membership.

### Section 2:

- a. The Delegate Committee shall conduct its daily business by email list. The e-mail list will serve as a standing meeting of the committee, with motions able to be made, discussed and decided. Any member of the Union in good standing may subscribe to this list.
- b. Delegate Committee members shall draft and approve bylaws for procedures of the standing meeting.
- c. The Delegate Committee will hold meetings in person or electronically at a regular quarterly interval that is mutually agreed upon by the Delegate Committee.

- b. Minutes will be taken by the Treasurer and made available to the membership on the Delegate Committee email list.
- d. Delegate Committee meetings shall be chaired by the Secretary.
- e. A special meeting may be called at the request of two Branches of the Union.

## **Article VII: General Membership Branch**

### Section 1:

- a. General Membership Meetings shall occur no less than every other month.
- b. The Secretary shall choose the time and date for the General Membership Meetings.
- c. A General Membership Meeting may be called within this interval by the Secretary or a majority vote of the Delegate Committee.
- d. Quorum at the General Membership Meetings shall be a minimum of 10 members in good standing, or 20% of the Union's membership, whichever is lower, and not including elected officers of the Union or any Branch.
- e. Attendance of the General Membership Meetings shall be in person or through electronic means, if providing such means is practical.

## **Article VIII: Revenue & Expenses**

### Section 1:

- a. The Union sets the dues rates as the following:
  - (1) \$1 per month for unwaged workers
  - (2) \$10 per month for renters/waged workers
  - (3) \$15 per month for Solidarity renter members
  - (4) \$15 per month for non-voting homeowner members of low wage
  - (5) \$30 per month for non-voting homeowner members of high wage
- b. First Nations peoples are not expected to pay dues.

### Section 10: Members in financial hardship

- c. If any member is in financial hardship, they can apply in writing to the Treasurer for their dues to be forgiven for 1 month.
- d. No evidence is required in the application by the member
- e. If an extension is required, any member can reapply ad infinitum.

### Section 2:

- a. Monthly dues are payable on the first of each month.
- b. Members whose dues are current or up to 59 days in arrears shall be in "good standing."
- c. Members whose dues are 60 days in arrears (from the first of the month when dues were payable) will be in "bad standing" and will not be entitled to any rights or benefits in the Union or able to hold any union office until such dues have been paid.
- d. After eight months in bad standing members will no longer be considered members and will have to reapply to join.

### Section 3:

- a. 10% of the Union's total gross income will be donated to Pay The Rent Victoria every financial quarter.
- b. This payment will be made with no attached conditions or contracts to Pay The Rent Victoria

- c. At such time as Pay the Rent Victoria dissolves, or the Union membership would like to elect an alternative organisation to donate funds to, this will be done with the advice and direction of First Nations organisations from each State or Territory of which the Union has members in good standing.

Section 11:

- d. Financial decisions are to be approved by the membership at General Membership Meetings, except as provided for in a budget.
- e. Budgets are to be approved by the membership at General Membership Meetings.
- f. Expenditure provided for within a budget is at the discretion of the Secretary and Treasurer, and, should the budget be associated with a Committee, the relevant Committee Chair.
- c. Expenditures are to be reported by the Treasurer in the quarterly bulletin.

Section 4:

- a. When a budget is proposed, it may be proposed in association with a standing Committee.
- b. If approved, the budgeted funds shall be provided from the general union account and kept in a new account for the Committee.
- c. The Secretary, Treasurer, and the relevant Committee Chair will have access to each Committees' bank accounts.
- d. If a Committee is abolished its bank account will be closed and all funds returned to the Union's general account.

## **Article IX: Elections & Referendum**

### Section 12: Annual Elections and Referendum

- a. Elections for all Office bearers and a referendum on any amendments to this Constitution will be held in the January General Membership Branch Meeting of each year.
- b. All members in good standing on January 1st are eligible to vote.

### Section 2: Returning Officer

- a. The Returning Officer shall be elected at the October General Membership Branch meeting, to serve until the end of elections in January.
- b. The Returning Officer shall be ineligible for all positions undergoing election.

### Section 3: Nomination and Election of Candidates

- d. On October 1st of each year, the Secretary will publish a notice calling for nominations for all relevant positions. Nominations are to be submitted to the Returning Officer.
- a. Nominations may be submitted by any member in good standing, with the consent of the nominee.
- b. Nominations will be open from October 1st until November 1st.
- c. The Secretary will publish a notice of all nominations received on November 7th.
- d. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes cast shall be declared elected.

### Section 4: Eligibility of nominations:

- a. If a nominee is not a Union member, or is a homeowner, they will be disqualified;
- b. All candidates for an officer post must have been in continuous good standing for at least one year before their nomination, unless there are no other qualified candidates standing.
- c. No officer may serve more than three consecutive terms in the same role, unless there are no other qualified candidates standing.

### Section 5: Terms of Office Bearers

- a. Each elected candidate will serve a term from January 1st until December 31st of that year.

### Section 6: Constitutional Amendments

- a. On September 1st of each year, the Secretary will publish a notice calling for amendments to the Constitution.  
(1) Amendments are to be submitted to the Secretary.
- b. Amendment submission will be open from the January GMB Meeting until November 1st.
- c. Amendments must originate from a Branch, or from a petition signed by 10% of the Union's members in good standing at time of submission.

- (1) If there are fewer than 5 Branches, proposals may be submitted by 2 members in good standing.
- d. The Secretary will publish a notice of all finalised amendments, on November 7th.
  - (1) This notice shall include notice of the January General Membership Branch meeting at which the ballot results shall be voted upon by the membership.
- e. All amendments receiving not less than three-quarters of the members voting in favour shall be declared successful.
- f. Each successful amendment will come into effect on the 1st of February of that year.

#### Section 7: Special Elections - Interim Officers

- a. If an elected position is vacant, any eligible member may nominate for that position.
- b. The Secretary shall publish a Special Election Meeting notice to the membership within 7 days of receipt and call for nominations.
- c. The election shall occur at the following General Membership Branch Meeting held a minimum of 21 days after the notice is given.
- d. Elected Interim Officers hold office until the following Annual Election.

#### Section 8: Ballot Committee

- a. The votes shall be counted by a three person ballot committee elected from the membership of a Branch.
- b. In November of each year, the Delegate Committee shall appoint a branch to host the ballot committee on a rotating basis, through all branches in the Union.
- c. The ballot committee must report the referendum results in writing by email to the membership upon completion of the counting and publish them in the internal bulletin.

#### Section 9:

- a. For all elected positions to have at least a minimum of 50% women, non-binary, gender diverse, ethnically diverse and First Nations members where possible.
- b. Rather than approach this from a position of quota-filling, all elected Officers and Delegates are expected to prioritise equity-based principles of shared spaces and ensure all ethnic and gender diverse members are encouraged to nominate.
- c. For all members to consider our social position and privileges and where possible, and leave space for others who mightn't be represented to take positions of leadership before themselves.

#### Section 10: Propaganda

- a. Propaganda may be submitted alongside any nominations or proposals to amend the Constitution.

- b. Any two members in good standing have the right to submit propaganda directly relevant to any elections or amendments by November 1st to the Secretary
- c. The Secretary may reject propaganda for irrelevance, excessive length, or that are found to be in violation of the Union's constitution or bylaws, especially its Purpose and Safer Spaces policy.



## **Article X: Safer Spaces**

### Section 1: Safer Spaces Policy

Section 2: RAHU is a union committed to upholding the rights and dignity of renters and people in precarious housing. We recognise our membership is diverse and as a union we recognise that oppression is layered, and is used as an instrument of power. As such, we strive to keep our common places free from oppressive action, behaviour, and language.

Section 3: These oppressive actions include but are not limited to: racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, and any expression of disrespect and/or intolerance of size, gender identity, sexual identity/expression, (dis)ability, age, educational level, and cultural background.

Section 4: We will not tolerate acts of disrespect, violence or oppression to our fellow members, and understand our shared responsibilities to address these wrongdoings if they occur to our fellow members.

Section 5: Because we want to learn from and educate each other, we will each be responsible for addressing these issues in ourselves and others.

Section 6: If a member feels the Union constitution and or this policy is being / has been violated, to themselves or another member, the following steps should be taken:

- a. Reference the policy to the whole group: for example, "In RAHU, we have a 'Safer Space Policy' that all members are mutually responsible to uphold. I feel this policy has been violated by talk of '[comments made].' Please keep the Safer Space Policy in mind."
- b. If the policy is still being violated, the issue should be brought up to the person in violation directly and/or the chair, an officer, a delegate, or a member whom you would like to act as an advocate on your behalf so that an effective plan of action can be instituted.
- c. If the issue has not been addressed successfully within the Union, a member or advocate can engage an outside organisation or group to help facilitate a further plan of action on behalf of the affected member and in accordance with the principles of the union.
- d. If a member feels like this policy is being violated and is uncomfortable bringing this up personally, they are encouraged to seek an ally of their choosing to advocate for them. In a meeting, a person can ask for a point of personal privilege to take a break and discuss this with the necessary parties. Meeting chairs, officers, delegates, and members should be conscious of this policy and address issues as they arise.

Section 7: Further, space shall be defined as any office, meeting, event (including trainings, social gatherings, etc.), internet platform (including email communications and social media, etc.) that is in use by the Union, which includes any body formally recognized by the Union, such as the Delegate Committee, local Branches, other committees, and any accountable sub-formation of the aforementioned bodies.

Section 8:

- a. If a satisfactory resolution is not able to be achieved, or attempts to address misconduct have not been made by the perpetrating member, the complainant, or any other member may apply for the perpetrating member to be removed from the Union.
- b. The elected advocate and officers will submit a report and timeline of the actions of the perpetrating member with the anonymity of the complainant if requested. This report will then be submitted to the membership at a General Membership Meeting whereby the Union will vote on the expulsion of the perpetrating member. During the period from application of expulsion up to the vote of expulsion, the perpetrating member may have their membership suspended, including exclusion from Union spaces, and all privileges of membership will be renounced.

Section 9:

- a. An expelled member has the opportunity to appeal the decision of the Union within 30 days of their expulsion. An expelled member may submit their appeal to the Secretary. Measurable and evidenced actions of addressing their behaviour will be required in order for their expulsion to be overturned.
- b. There may be a requirement for the member to demonstrate longer term actions in addressing and improving their behaviour.

## **Article XI: Advisory Board**

### **Section 1: Purpose of the Board**

Section 2: The Renters and Housing Union Advisory Board exists to ensure that the Union acts:

- a. In accordance with the public good;
- b. In service to the communities within which the Union operates;
- c. In a manner consistent with a Registered Public Benevolent Institution;
- d. To advance social and public welfare;
- e. To promote and protect human rights, especially articles 8, 10, 12 and 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- f. To not engage in actions which would disqualify the Union from Registered Public Benevolent Institution status.

### **Section 3: Board Membership and Structure**

- a. The Board shall be comprised of six individuals:
  - (1) Three Members, who have a degree of responsibility to the community, including if possible:
    - (i) One Member with experience in Governance and its legal responsibilities
    - (ii) One Member with experience in Financial Responsibility
    - (iii) One Member who is a Tenancy and Consumer Law advocate
  - (2) Three Members who have lived experience and degree of responsibility to their respective communities
    - (i) One First Nations Housing Advocate;
    - (ii) One Member with lived experience of being Disabled or Neurodivergent;
    - (iii) One Member who is a peer member of the Migrant community.
  - (3) Two Members who are Union members, and are:
    - (i) Not elected members, Union Officebearers or Committee Chairs;
- b. Board Members must be eligible for Union membership.
- c. No Board Member shall hold more than one Board position.
  - (1) Each Board Member shall have equal voice and vote in Board decisions.
  - (2) The Board may choose to nominate one Board Member to act as Chair, to schedule and facilitate meetings of the Board.
- d. Appointment of Board Members
  - (1) Any member can propose a person to be appointed to the board by raising it at their branch meeting, to be voted by their branch membership.
  - (2) The Delegates Committee will collect proposals, and all appointments are voted by the Delegates Committee

### **Section 4: Responsibilities of the Board**

- a. The Board shall meet no fewer than once quarterly, at a time and date of their choosing.
- b. The Board shall make the Union aware of the date, time and agenda of each meeting with at least 30 days' notice.

- c. Items added to the agenda within 30 days of a Board meeting need not be published prior to the meeting.
- d. The Board shall respond to agenda items submitted by Union members.
- e. The Board is a democratic entity, and decisions of the Board must be made democratically by Board Members.
- f. The Board must:
  - (1) Review and audit Union operations;
  - (2) Provide the Union with advisory directives, to promote the goals and purpose of the Union.
  - (3) The Board is advisory and cannot compel the Union in any manner.
  - (4) The board may submit agenda items, including proposals, to the Delegate Committee.

### Section 13: Responsibilities of the Union to the Board

- g. Union Officebearers must provide avenues of communication between the Board, and Union Delegates and membership.
- h. Union Officebearers must provide reports on the activities of the Union to the Board, at least quarterly.
- i. Union Officebearers must seek reasonable resolution to any concerns raised by the Board.
- j. The Union Secretary shall make all agendas and minutes of the Board available to Union membership.
- k. All members of the Delegate Committee must consider and vote upon agenda items submitted by the Board.
- l. A Branch or member may submit items for Board meeting agendas, including but not limited to requesting feedback on specific Union activities.

Section 6:

**Article XII: Bylaws I: Stacking**

Section 1: Stacking

- a. If it is clear that a political party, organisation or other political grouping are present in a meeting for their own political purposes, any present member can call to suspend the meeting on account of stacking.
- b. If a member calls for the meeting to be suspended, an alternative meeting time will be announced and reconvened at that later date.
- c. At the reconvened meeting, the membership must address the issue of stacking
- d. The membership may also decide to take disciplinary measures against individuals and/or groups who stack meetings including; censuring motions, or calling to suspend or expel a particular member as per Article II Section 5.

**Article XIII: Bylaws II: Audit Committee**

Section 1: Audit Committee

- a. A three-person Audit Committee shall be elected from a Branch every May.
- b. The Delegate Committee shall appoint a Branch to host the audit committee on a rotating basis, through all Branches of the Union. No branch shall perform the duties of the Audit Committee consecutively unless there are three or fewer Branches.
- c. The committee shall submit the audit report of the accounts of the Union to the annual bulletin, and membership mailing list.
- d. The committee shall respond to questions as addendum to the report for circulation via mailing list, and for presentation at the following General Meeting.