

StorageNetworking.org

Storage Networking User Group Bylaws

The following articles establish the common operating policies for Storage Networking User Groups chartered by StorageNetworking.org, a non-profit initiative managed by the Information Storage Industry Center (ISIC) at the University of California, San Diego. The StorageNetworking.org initiative's mission is to support the users of data storage technology.

ARTICLE 1. NAME OF USER GROUP

The official name of the organization will be defined on the Storage Networking User Group Charter, and on the official copy of the Storage Networking User Group Bylaws. Typically, it will include the name of the founder's closest major city (e.g., San Diego Storage Networking User Group) or metropolitan area (e.g., Orange County Storage Networking User Group).

ARTICLE 2. MISSION OF USER GROUP

The mission of the Storage Networking User Group is to serve its members by promoting the free exchange of information and ideas related to the effective application of data storage technology. To that end, the organization will facilitate face-to-face meetings with other local data storage users to discuss their mutual challenges, exchange advice, and interact with knowledge experts in an open and respectful vendor-neutral environment.

ARTICLE 3. MEMBERSHIP

Any person with an interest in data storage technology who wishes to be a member shall be identified as such. No person can be excluded from membership based on age, color, origin of birth, political view, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or organizational affiliation. A roster of members should be maintained by the user group's officers for the purpose of communicating meeting schedules and other pertinent information.

3.1 Limitation

No member or group of members shall undertake any action, make any commitments to third parties, or make any statements that may be construed as the user group's official position on any matter unless such action is approved in advance by the officers and a majority of the members.

3.2 Revocation

Should an individual member behave in a way that is inconsistent with the mission of the organization (as defined in Article 2), it is at the discretion of the officers of the

organization to request that the individual not attend future meetings. However, the officers' decision must be unanimous and be supported by the majority of the user group members.

ARTICLE 4. DUES

No dues will be charged to members by StorageNetworking.org. However, at the discretion of the membership, member donations may be solicited to provide food, drinks, and/or other special items, or to support any speaker fees or expenses.

Collection of annual dues by local user groups is not expressly prohibited, but it does require a modification of the user group bylaws, as described in Article 11.

ARTICLE 5. MEETINGS

Local user group meetings will be conducted at least once per quarter, but no more frequently than once per month, as desired by the membership. Meetings may be held at any location, including vendor company facilities, as long as such meeting space is provided free of obligation.

ARTICLE 6. GOVERNANCE

Initially, the affairs of the organization will be managed by its founders. They will coordinate founding activities with StorageNetworking.org and schedule and facilitate the initial meetings. No later than the fourth meeting, the membership will elect officers to fulfill the responsibilities outlined in Article 7. On matters brought before a vote of the full membership, a simple majority of those present will carry the vote. However, sales and marketing representatives from data storage vendor companies are excluded from voting on any motions brought before the membership.

ARTICLE 7. OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES

Each user group will elect its own President, Vice President, and Secretary, in accordance with the guidelines set forth in Article 8. Officers will serve for a term of one year and may serve no more than two consecutive terms in a particular office. However, outbound officers are eligible for election to a different office.

The officers primary collective responsibility is the scheduling and organization of regular user group meetings. This will include defining the agendas, making arrangements with the guest speakers, locating meeting venues, publicizing the meetings, and ordering refreshments. The individual duties of each officer are defined as follows:

President

- The President shall preside over all meetings.

- The President shall see that the Bylaws are faithfully executed and shall decide all questions of order, as defined in Article 9.
- The President shall manage all organizational affairs personally or through delegation of authority, including the designation of appropriate committees.

Vice President

- The Vice President shall assume all duties of the President in his/her absence.
- The Vice President shall coordinate the work of all committees.

Secretary

- The Secretary shall keep accurate minutes of the proceedings at all user group meetings.
- The Secretary shall be responsible for all user group communications efforts, and coordinate those efforts with StorageNetworking.org.
- The Secretary will ensure the accuracy of the user group information on the StorageNetworking.org portal and provide updated information as necessary.

ARTICLE 8. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

User group officers will serve concurrently for a term of one year, at which time new general elections should be held. For the initial general election, the user group Founders shall make up the nominating committee and present a list of candidates to the user group for consideration. For follow-on elections, the President shall appoint a nominating committee to assemble a list of candidates. The recommended list of candidates should be provided to user group members at least 10 days in advance of the regularly scheduled meeting at which the election will be held. All officers shall be elected by a simple majority of those present at that meeting. In the event of a tie in which neither elected party chooses to withdraw, the election will be decided by a coin toss.

Any elected officer may resign at any time by notifying the remaining officers. A special election will be held at the earliest possible time to select a replacement. This special election should be conducted in accordance with the guidelines for general elections described in this article. The person elected to replace a resigning officer will serve the remainder of that officer's term.

ARTICLE 9. RULES OF ORDER

Except as specified below, the rules contained in *Robert's Rules of Order* shall govern user group meetings in all cases where they are applicable and consistent with user group Bylaws.

For matters requiring a member vote, the following guidelines apply:

- A simple majority of user group members present at a meeting carries the vote.

- Motions must be made, seconded, and then restated by the user group President or his/her designated representative.
- After an appropriate period of discussion, motions can then be put to a vote or shelved for future consideration.
- It is up to the user group President to try and remain on a neutral footing and make sure all sides of an issue are discussed. However, in the event of a tie vote, the president may elect to cast the deciding vote.
- Any user group member must recuse himself/herself from a vote that directly affects them or their business interests.

ARTICLE 10. SPONSORSHIPS

User groups should welcome non-monetary commercial sponsorship by providers of storage products and services or other corporate interests. This could be in the form of providing venues, speakers, giveaway items, literature, or other non-monetary donations. Additionally, monetary gifts to cover food and/or drink expenses are acceptable. In exchange, user groups may acknowledge these donations by providing recognition to sponsors at user group meetings and in advertisements and/or newsletters.

10.1 Limitation

The user group should never endorse a single vendor or product or give the appearance of preferential treatment to a provider in exchange for goods or services.

10.2 Additional Sponsor Responsibilities

It is expected that commercial sponsors will make every appropriate effort to contribute to the user group's overall mission and to assist the user group in growing membership by publicizing their participation to their own constituents.

ARTICLE 11. AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS

Amendments to the user group Bylaws must be approved by user group members and by StorageNetworking.org. StorageNetworking.org will cooperate fully by assisting the user group officers in locating appropriate amendment language and, wherever possible, providing rapid approval. All amendments will be considered except those that clearly conflict with the user group's overall purpose, as defined in Article 3 of these Bylaws.