



Slow Food Dallas

Constitution and By Laws

Preamble

We recognize and accept that the modern techno-industrial age is upon us and that this mode of life has severe consequence on the fabric of traditional cultures and the future of life in North Texas. We declare that as an eco-gastronomical movement, Slow Food is an antidote to the negative consequences of the modern age because it empowers us to protect and maintain those traditions and species that will enhance our lives, while also embracing those aspects of the modern age that make the world a better place. Slow Food is good, clean and fair food. We believe that the food we eat should taste good; that it should be produced in a clean way that does not harm the environment, animal welfare or our health; and that food producers should receive fair compensation for their work.

Purpose

The Dallas Convivium of Slow Food brings people together to enjoy the pleasures of life while promoting and sustaining the producers of good, clean and fair food and beverages within the greater region of North Texas.

Our Principles of Organization

The Dallas Convivium of Slow Food has set forth the following principles to guide the behavior of the organization's leadership team as it works to set goals and define activities.

- We foster a sense of discovery and learning among the group, recognizing that the diversity and complexity of life requires that we remain open in order to perceive and understand.
- We are committed to building a sense of community among the members by organizing activities that foster friendship, common purpose, and appreciation for life in North Texas.
- As a group we recognize that success requires clear intentions, hard work, certain forms of sacrifice, and commitment. Therefore, we seek to share the responsibility of achieving our goals.

Principles of Practice

Recognizing that we will need to periodically examine our core beliefs, that the actions of the Dallas Convivium must be consistently implemented over the long-term, that the membership's consent is needed to achieve our purpose, we have set forth the following principles to guide implementation of our activities.

- We work in concert with the Slow Food USA movement and accept and abide by the Slow Food Manifesto and the Slow Food USA National Statutes because we believe these documents clearly and correctly articulate why and how Slow Food is an appropriate response to the challenges of our time.
- We seek to slow the pace of our lives to enhance the level of meaning, joy, and sustenance we derive from our relationships, our food, and the world around us.
- We support and promote the concept of sustainable society and agriculture through our social, ecological, and economic systems; further, we are accountable for the effects of our decisions on future generations.
- We seek to defend the existence and enhance the lives of producers of good, clean and fair food, beverage and cultural experience because they guard the diversity that is essential to our long-term survival.
- We honor and value those who work the land and tend the animals that provide us food. Therefore, we commit to pay fairly for the high quality products offered by good, clean and fair producers.
- We will focus our outreach and educational activity in order to spread the vision of Slow Food in North Texas and create changes that over time lead to the world we seek.

Organizational Structure

We are organized in one leadership team with five committees: Administration, Membership/Orientation, PR/Communications, Fundraising/Event Coordination and Education.

The composition and duties for each committee are as follows:

- **Administration**, is composed of a
 - Leader, who acts as liaison to national/international Slow Food, handles all inquiries to Slow Food Dallas that don't specifically involve greeting new members, oversees financials along with the Treasurer, assists with end-of-year report for National office and presides at all meetings
 - Secretary, who handles internal communication within the Administration committee and leadership team, writes and distributes minutes of the meetings to all members through our web-site, constructs the agenda for meetings and schedules meetings
 - Treasurer, who is in charge of financial affairs including the receipt, deposit and disbursement of funds from the Slow Food Dallas bank account; the compilation of the year-end report for the National office, presents a monthly financial report to the leadership team
- **Membership/Orientation**, which consists of a chairperson and as many members as the chair deems necessary to carry out the duties of the committee, which include:
 - Handling all member-related inquiries
 - Developing and managing a mentoring system for new members
 - Maintaining an up-to-date list of paid-up members
 - Conducting outreach programs to attract and retain members, including producers and chefs

- **Communications**, which consists of a chairperson and as many members as the chair deems necessary to carry out the duties of the committee, which include:
 - Media relations
 - Developing and distributing news releases on noteworthy events including activities and fundraising efforts
 - Writing and distributing information to the Slow Food Dallas membership through a newsletter or other appropriate vehicle(s)
 - Maintaining the Website

- **Fundraising/Event Coordination**, which consists of a chair and four co-chairs, with each co-chair being responsible for developing, organizing and executing events throughout the year. Responsibilities include:
 - **Co-Chair-Producers**, responsible for organizing producer-centric events. Producers are defined as growers, ranchers and farmers
 - **Co-Chair-Artisanal**, responsible for organizing artisanal-related events. Artisans are defined as someone who handcrafts food or beverage items
 - **Co-Chair-Retail/Wholesale**, responsible for organizing events centered on retailers or wholesalers of sustainable products
 - **Co-Chair-Slow Food Suppers**, responsible for scheduling Slow Food Suppers, recruiting sufficient hosts and participants
 - The Chairperson is responsible for coordinating timing, budget and pricing for each event. In those cases where the lines between producers/artisans and retail/wholesale are blurred, the Chair will work with the co-chairs to determine the appropriate classification

- **Education**, which consists of a chairperson and as many members as the chair deems necessary to carry out the duties of the committee, which include:
 - Developing and executing programs that support Slow Food in Schools and community gardens
 - Maintaining a presence at Farmers' Markets
 - Conducting research to determine local foods/traditions that should be preserved and be included in the Ark of Taste
 - Educating the public, the trade and members about good, clean and fair food

The Leadership team is comprised of the Leader, Treasurer, Secretary, chairs of each of the committees as well as the co-chairs of the Fundraising/Event Coordination committee. The Leadership team will act as trusted servants (they do not govern by decree) for the activities undertaken by the Convivium.

Members of the Leadership team can serve for terms of one or more years. At the end of each year, The Administration Committee composed of the Leader, Secretary and Treasurer will accept and select nominations from all the members of the Convivium for the Leadership team. A broadcast message to the membership shall announce a window of time for nominations, including self-nominations.

The Leadership team shall be confirmed by the membership at an annual meeting each September.

July 7, 2007