

THE SIXTH SET OF RULES AND REGULATIONS. -- 1968

This issue carries the title *"The Fellowship Forum, Rules and Regulations, Revised October, 1968."* It is the first to be printed in booklet form. The number of Sections is reduced from ten to nine by dropping *"Section VII - Elections."* It had been in all previous sets of Rules beginning in 1953. The subject of Elections is covered in *"Section III - Officers"* under the heading "Election." There are some major changes in the handling of proposals for new members. Minor changes amplify detailed instructions and generally up-date procedures.

"Section I - Nature and Purposes" replaces the former *"Section I - Purpose."* The text is changed accordingly and up-dates the description of Forum activities.

"Section II - Membership" drops the Honorary Membership classification leaving Active Membership and Inactive Membership. The number of Active Members remains limited to 50.

A major change is made in the processing of proposals for membership. They are accepted by the Membership Committee during a specific thirty-day period as in the past. Then, they are submitted to the Active Members for their information, study and comments, if they care to express them. Active Members are also told the number of vacancies as determined by the Governing Board.

After two weeks, the Membership Committee reviews the proposals, and if unanimous agreement is reached, approves a list of candidates for the election ballot. The election is then held, and after a period of ten days allowed for the return of the ballots to the Secretary, the results are referred to the Governing Board for tabulation. Three or more negative votes by Active Members disqualify a candidate. The Chairman of the Board so notifies the Membership Committee.

"Section III - Officers" requires the President to announce the existence of vacancies whenever the Active Membership roll is reduced to 45 members or below, or at his discretion, when the roll is less than 50. This is a new policy not found in earlier Rules. It is confused, to some extent, by a phrase in *"Section II - Membership"* paragraph 3b which stipulates that the number of vacancies is determined by the Governing Board. Evidently, the President has limited authority in the matter.

"Section II - Membership" gives the Secretary a new duty. He is to communicate annually with each Inactive Member who is in that classification for a reason other than ill-health or physical disability, in order to determine whether the member wishes to resign.

The Secretary is also required to provide every new member with a copy of the current Rules and Regulations.

"Section V - Governing Board" is completely rewritten and up-dated to meet changes in the Rules. However, no basic changes are made in the authority or responsibility of the Board.

"Section VI - Meetings" stipulates, for the first time in any of the formal Rules and Regulations, that programs or discussions at a meeting may never involve partisan politics or denominational religion. These matters had been mentioned at the organization meeting of December 27, 1950.

"Section VIII - Dues and Expenditures" replaces the designation "*Dues and Assessments*" which had been in use since 1955. The Section is rewritten and up-dated but is basically unchanged. For the first time in any set of Rules, it is stipulated that new members, elected during the second half of the year, shall pay one-half of the annual dues for that year, i.e., \$6.00 instead of the full \$12.00.

This completes an analysis of the six sets of Rules and Regulations of the Fellowship Forum from April 24, 1953 to October 15, 1968. The introduction of the secret ballot on October 25, 1960 was handled as an amendment. However, it was a major change that ended an era in Forum history and began another. During the first period, Rules were changed about every other year, i.e., 1953, '55, '57, '58 '60. In fact, both 1957 and 1958 saw new sets of Rules. The second period was more stable with each set of Rules lasting four years, i.e., 1960, '64, '68.

Changes during the 1953 - '60 period were not often related to the nomination and election of new members. In marked contrast, the 1960, '64, '68 era has seen a prolonged heavy attack on these problems.

Signed
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