

Bristol Fourth of July Committee  
Explanation of Policy Changes Adopted on May 9, 2024

*The first proposed change (Article II, Section 6, shown below) had to do with requiring non-member volunteers who wish to assist at certain events to pass background checks prior to being allowed to do so.*

Article II, Section 6

1. Volunteers who are not members of the Committee are expected to meet the same standards with regard to respecting an individual's rights and shall not use their position to discriminate against any person participating in the Celebration. Nonmember volunteers who assist with the following events will be required to pass a background check prior to the event.
  - Miss/Little Miss Fourth of July Pageant
  - Music and Entertainment
  - Orange Crate Derby
  - Old Fashioned Days
  - Souvenirs
  - Other fundraising activities and events not listed above where the volunteers will be handling money
  - Other events not listed above involving children
  - Other events not listed above at the discretion of the General Chairman, Vice-Chairman, or event chairman.

The General Chairman may waive this requirement at his/her discretion.

*The second proposed change (Article III, Section 4, Article IV, Section 2b, Paragraph 1, Article VII, Section 3, Article IX, Section 8, Article IX, Section 21, last paragraph, Article IX, Section 26, last paragraph, shown below) had to do with situations when the General Committee or a subcommittee can go into executive session in accordance with the RI Open Meeting Act. In addition, regarding the Executive Board, Finance Subcommittee, and Policy Subcommittee meetings which are open to the public, only those members of the Fourth of July Committee who were appointed to these subcommittees by the General Chairman can vote.*

**Article III, Section 4 – Closed Meetings**

A General Committee Meeting or subcommittee meeting may be closed to the public upon an affirmative vote of most of its members. A meeting closed to the public shall be limited to matters involving the selection of the Patriotic Speaker, the Interfaith Service Speaker, the Hattie Brown Award winner or personnel. The reason for

holding a closed meeting, and a statement specifying the nature of the business to be discussed shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the meeting, which will be posted later. All votes taken in closed session shall be disclosed once the session is reopened unless doing so would prematurely reveal the identity of the Patriotic Speaker, the Interfaith Service Speaker, or the Hattie Brown Award winner.

**Article IV, Section 2b, Paragraph 1 - Membership Review**

As permitted by Rhode Island law, in cases where discussions about personnel take place, meetings of the Membership Subcommittee shall be closed to the general public including Fourth of July Committee members who were not appointed to the Membership Subcommittee by the General Chairman.

**Article VII, [Executive Board] Section 3 - Meetings**

The Executive Board shall meet as often as deemed necessary by the General Chairman. Although meetings of the Executive Board are open to the public, only those Committee members who have been appointed to the Executive Board by the General Chairman may vote at these meetings.

**Article IX, Section 8 - Finance**

The Finance Subcommittee, with the approval of the General Committee, shall establish and oversee the procedures to be followed by all subcommittees with regard to banking. Such procedures shall include, but not be limited to: the establishment of checking and savings accounts, how bills are to be paid, the handling of cash banks for events, and how credit sales are to be handled. These procedures shall be subject to review and modification at the beginning of each fiscal year or as needed. Although meetings of the Finance Subcommittee are open to the public, only those Committee members who have been appointed to the Finance Subcommittee by the General Chairman may vote at these meetings.

**Article IX, Section 21, Last Paragraph - Nominating Subcommittee**

...As permitted by Rhode Island law, in cases where discussions about personnel take place, meetings of the Nominating Subcommittee shall be closed to the general public including Fourth of July Committee members who were not elected to the Nominating Subcommittee by the General Committee.

**Article IX, Section 26, Last Paragraph - Policy**

...Although meetings of the Policy Subcommittee are open to the public, only those Committee members who have been appointed to the Policy Subcommittee by the General Chairman may vote at these meetings.

*The third proposed change (Article IV, Section 2a, shown below) had to do with changing the number of required meetings of the Membership Subcommittee from three to two each year.*

**Article IV, Section 2a - New Members**

... The Membership Subcommittee shall meet prior to the March and September General Committee meetings and submit its recommendations to the General Committee at its March and September meetings....

*The fourth proposed change (Article VIII, Section 2, Subsection (j), shown below) had to do with requiring subcommittee chairmen to submit check requests and invoices to the Treasurer within ninety (90) days after their events but not later than the end of the fiscal year in which the expenses were incurred.*

**Article VIII, Section 2, Subsection (j)- Duties of a Subcommittee Chairman**

(j) All subcommittee chairmen shall submit check requests and related invoices to the Treasurer within 90 days after their events but not later than the end of the fiscal year in which the expenses were incurred.