

DON BOSCO ALUMNI
WORLD CONFEDERATION
STATUTES OF THE NATIONAL / PROVINCIAL FEDERATIONS
&
LOCAL UNITS

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Presentation

Rome, 5 December 2015

Dear Past Pupils:

I am writing on the feast day of Blessed Philip Rinaldi. A man open for newness and was adept to recognise the needs of people and society. He gave particular attention to encourage the involvement of the laity.

Don Rinaldi uncovered the value of associations and gave significance to the role of the laity as diverse from clerical life. He promoted the Association from an embryonic, sentimental and loose group to a living active organisation with concrete proposals and clear objectives.

The founding of the Association as such was the work of Don Filippo Rinaldi, who gave it a juridical structure in 1911. Now, in the context of the bygone centenary of this foundation, I myself have the pleasure to introduce the new Statute of the World Confederation of the Past Pupils of Don Bosco. I believe this is a providential coincidence and a very significant one too because it allows us to look back at the past and know what the original purpose was, and then address the present and the future to discern what God expects from an organization such as this. What matters is our creative, dynamic fidelity to Don Bosco's original inspiration and to the current situation of the world and the Church.

This Statute is the result of a long process of work throughout the World Confederation which ended in "5th World Statutory Elective Assembly" held in Rome between the 3rd and the 6th October 2015. That is, after six years of the approval ad experimentum where the Association has studied and lived the Statute before finally approved. Now, a new spring begins, in which the identity and mission of the Past Pupils will bloom profusely within the Salesian Family, in the Church and in the World.

I want to highlight some points which enrich this document. In Chapter 1 on the 'Identity and Origin', the new Statute inserted a biblical text where every past pupil is called to be "the salt of earth and light of the world" (Mt. 5: 13-14). You have also introduced a new chapter, Chapter 2 on "Belonging, Commitment and Formation in the Association" which is emphasising three key aspects of the Association to all present and future members of Local Associations, Provincial and National Federations. The sense of commitment and belonging are solemnly declared in the "Prayer Promise of the Past Pupil of Don Bosco" which can be individually recited by members, in meetings and especially publicly when one decides to live his commitment as a past pupil in the Association as «a project of life, as a choice or as a mission».

Among the Past Pupils there is a natural diversity which has to be convincingly understood. The World Confederation, alternatively called The Association, affirms its belonging to the Church. However, there are other Past Pupils of different denominations and faith communities whom, by title and right, consciously accept and practice their own beliefs. It is Don Bosco himself, with his

educational system and his mission who inspires unity in the Association and brings all its members together in communion.

Dear Past Pupils, at this particular historical moment, society, the Church and the Salesian Family is asking you to take to heart the protection and promotion of those values we all consider to be “non-negotiable”. They are indeed the guarantee of a truly human life for all. I refer especially to the values of life, freedom and truth.

You are part of the living fabric of society, and are called on to be the defenders of these values. In this mission you will show the world what it means to be “salt of the earth” and “light for the world”, by living out your life as lay people guided by a clear conscience, doing your work with thoroughly professional competence, and expressing your openness to today’s world through practical social involvement.

Don Bosco is calling you again to be “honest citizens and good Christians”, to promote human dignity and the identity of the family, to exercise solidarity within the Association and beyond it, especially towards young people who suffer the most disadvantage, to keep in contact with young people who are concluding their education in Salesian houses, so as to invite them to become actively involved in the Association. This will make them feel they are always “Past Pupils of Don Bosco”, and it will offer them the opportunity for their ongoing formation, and be an effective group for their social involvement.

I would like to tell you that the Past Pupils’ Association gains its true energy from the Local Unions. They are the natural field for the integration, formation and involvement of the members of the Association. Therefore, it is imperative that the Local Unions are strengthened in number and quality. Then we have the Salesian Delegate who accompanies them with perseverance and dedication, following an appropriate formation programme. Finally, they express their vitality through initiatives and projects that are significant in their own local area.

When leading and governing the Association, do not forget to use the tools that leaders and managers use which are synonymous with success, particularly “the strategic plan and the annual operating plan”, as rightly stated in your Statute (Art. 21f).

The “education you have received” in the past cannot remain a mere memory; you have to turn it into a force that draws the Past Pupils along with it, to influence the world, transforming it and making it more human.

Dear Past Pupils, I give you the Statute as a most valuable gift while invite you to study and put it into practice.

I entrust all of you, individually, your loved ones and your commitments to the care and maternal guidance of Mary Help of Christians!

With great affection and the same respect that Don Bosco had,

Fr. Ángel Fernández Artime

Rector Major

Prologue

«One thing for which we must gratefully thank the Lord, which forms my greatest consolation, is that wherever I go, I always hear good things about you: everywhere good words are spoken about my young of bygone days, everyone praises this meeting of ours, because it is a significant means to remember the warnings and words of advice I used to give you when you were of a younger age. Yes, let me repeat it, this gives me my greatest consolation; it is the honour and glory of my declining years.

I can see that many of you are already balding, with grey hair and forehead lined with wrinkles. You are no longer the boys I loved so much; however I feel that now I love you even more than before.

Continue along the good path as you have done for years, so that you can say you are happy to have come here; Don Bosco will also be pleased and can feel proud that the youths once so dearly loved by him, now fully grown men, have known how to maintain and practice the teachings they received from his lips. You were a small flock: it has grown, it has grown a great deal, but it will multiply yet more. You will be the light that shines within the world, and by your example you will teach others how to do good and how to detest and run away from evil. I am certain that you will continue to be Don Bosco's consolation. Dear sons, let the Lord help us with His grace so that one day we shall all meet again in Heaven»⁽¹⁾.

(1) Words of Don Bosco at the Convention of Past Pupils, 13th July 1885, Biographical Memoirs of Don Bosco (BM) 17,173-174.

Preface

We know how much Don Bosco loved his pupils. Once they completed their educational programme he followed them, invited them, welcomed them, guided them, he admonished them when necessary, he worried about their wellbeing, above all, he was concerned about their spiritual life.

«With your presence you assure me that the principles of our holy religion that I taught you are set firmly in your hearts and that these are the guidelines for our lives...»(2).

On another occasion, speaking to the Past Pupils, he said: «One thing I urge you, my dear children, more than any other and that is: wherever you might be, always show yourselves to be good Christians and honest citizens... Many of you already have families. So, share the education you received in the oratory from Don Bosco, with your nearest and dearest»(3).

From a practical point of view, «Don Bosco offered his youths the possibility of making the “education received” bear fruit, either in the committed group of Past Pupils, or in the Pious Union of Co-operators, in the priesthood or religious life, or in his Salesian Congregation. What is interesting to stress, was the importance he gave to the richness of education in the Oratory»(4).

In answer to the deep love of Don Bosco, on the 24th June 1870, on the occasion of the feast of Saint John the Baptist and Don Bosco’s name-day feast, «a dozen Old Boys officially met; they chose as their leader the kind-hearted and generous Carlo Gastini, who always considered the Oratory to be his second family; they were committed to find a greater number of members; then they appointed a commission to be better organised, for the future, the annual expressions of affection and gratitude»(5).

(2) MB XVII, p. 173-4.

(3) MB XIV, p. 511.

(4) E. VIGANÒ, The Past-Pupils of Don Bosco, in: “Acts of the General Council of the Salesian Society of St. John Bosco”, LXVIII (1987) 321, p. 9.

(5) E. VIGANÒ, op. cit., pp. 6-7.

Amongst the many initiatives achieved in direct contact with Don Bosco, for the benefit of the Old Boys, as they used to be called at that time, we recall a particularly significant one. It was the year 1878. «Don Bosco proposed a Mutual Aid Society to the Old Boys to face up to current difficulties, even financially. “Make sure this advantage is not limited only to yourselves, but is extended to those youths of good conduct that you already know, or to all of you who are here at the meeting”. Carlo Gastini, leader of the Old Boys, immediately took the organization into hand, using a statute drawn up several years before by Don Bosco himself for an identical institution amongst young workers»(6). «Little by little, especially after the death of Don Bosco, the Old Boys organised themselves into local groups, unions and societies, right up to the proper organisation promoted by Don Filippo Rinaldi»(7).

From 1901 onwards, different stages of organisation followed one another. «The structure was formally created at the 1st International Congress of the Old Boys in 1911, as a Federation of the various local unions, clubs and societies. Until then they had been called “Old Boys”(8); from that date onwards they were called “Past Pupils”»(9). The creator and promoter of this initiative was Don Rinaldi himself. «Thus he was able to give an overall structure to a movement of affections, of gratitude, of life ideals, that made the ‘education received’ and experienced a more alive and working force»(10).

Arturo Poesio, a late president of the Confederation, writes: «The eloquence of Don Rinaldi was simple, spontaneous, paternal and convincing. Only once he adopted a language of authority, by declaring, in his capacity as Rector Major of the Salesian Society of Saint Frances of Sales, that the organisation of the Past Pupils must be included in those “novas familias” that have flourished in the Holy Church thanks to Don Bosco, which are alluded to the Saint’s own Oremus»(11).

(6) MB XIII, p. 759.

(7) E. VIGANÒ, op. cit., p. 7.

(8) Today in Spain they are using again the term Old Pupils.

(9) E. VIGANÒ, op. cit., p. 10. 10 LRM p.

(10); E. CERNIA, “Life of God’s Servant Fr. Filippo Rinaldi” SEI p. 252.

(11) “Congregation for the Causes of Saints”, Positio, Rome 1972, p. 28.

The foundations of this organization started by Don Bosco and completed by Don Rinaldi, the Association of the Past Pupils has been expanding ever more in all Salesian works through organised and coordinated structures. The various events held over the decades bear witness to this. The Past Pupils have always shown themselves to be affectionate children and with an ever greater commitment to operate in society.

The Past Pupil's Association has over 100 years of life. It is a comprehensive institution through the efforts of past and present secular persons, laity, religious and Salesian Priests who were committed with a strong sense of belonging; who led and governed the Association according to established criteria of theirera; who were able to accept both the difficult and the good times without being discouraged, with audacity, steadfastness and dedication; people who were willing to offer their time and their work to consolidate this monument of thanks to Don Bosco, the World Confederation of Past Pupils, with people from generous families who have understood what it means to serve society, the Church, the Salesian Family and the Association itself without complaining.⁽¹²⁾

As a sign of gratitude and thanks, I think that it is appropriate to, at least, mention the Presidents and the World Delegates who have served the World Confederation with exemplary dedication.

The Presidents: Piero Gribaudo, Felice Masera, Arturo Poesio, José María Taboada, José María González Torres, Giuseppe Castelli, Antonio Guilhermino Pires, Francesco Muceo and Michal Hort who was elected on the 5th October 2015.

The World Delegates: don Giorgio Gustave Serietà, don Guido Borra, don Luigi Fiora, don Umberto Bastasi, don Carlo Borgetti, don Charles Cini, don Henri Alen, don Mark Vellanganny, don Jerônimo da Rocha Monteiro e don José Pastor Ramírez Fernández. I wish to also remember Tommaso Natale, who for many years, served as General Secretary. To all these people, a deep and sincere thanks. Various successive Rector Majors also gave their contribution in the animation of the Past Pupils, and with them, many other Salesians. Amongst them, which you cannot but mention, are don Luigi Ricceri and don Giovanni Raineri.

An authentic example is that of the late don Egidio Viganò who wrote a meaningful and stimulating letter regarding the animation and guidance of the Past Pupils by the Salesians of Don Bosco which will always remain a fundamental document for the Past Pupils themselves.

Don E. Vecchi offered a rich contribution to the Confederation in the "8th National Congress of Past Pupils of Don Bosco of Italy. Renew for Renewal" in Rimini on the 10th to the 13th October 1996 in his various interventions.

(12) J. P. RAMÍREZ, "Un passato glorioso, un presente impegnativo, un futuro incoraggiante!", Key note Speech presented by the World Delegate in the "5th World Elective Statutory Assembly" which took place in Rome between the 3rd and the 6th October 2015.

The former Rector Major, Don Pascual Chávez Villanueva, during the various animation visits to the Provinces and in various meetings with the Past Pupils has shown interest in the Association inviting one and all to have «professional skill, moral conscience and social commitment». Further, he asks them to defend their values at all costs, above all: those of life, freedom and truth.

The present Rector Major, Don Ángel Fernández Artime, whenever he meets the Salesian Family encourages members to live in communion, in collaboration, to grow in the spirit of belonging towards their own groups and the Salesian Family, and not to complain. «Our strength is to live a true life of communion and fraternity that is more evangelical in order to be more consultative, attractive in itself, offer our communal service within each of our institutions or groups, and within our same Family whom we speak the same language».

Don Artime comments: «continually encourages the Past Pupils, not to lament, no need to focus on the past, but project yourselves into the future considering the risks of the local associations, Federations and the Confederation. Dear Past Pupils, strengthen your commitment within the reality in which you work. Let's go back by being young at heart, offer help to those who need it, to leave a sign of our own existence. Truth must be shown, not only in written form, but to live with courage! It is your turn to act upon the consequences, your turn to save those who need your attention, it is your turn to build a sound foundation for a new future. I believe that all of you, Past Pupils, have the requisites to face these challenges as lay people in the world today, the ability to bring to reality what you received over the years, use them concretely. Furthermore, appreciate also what you are daily receiving in all the Salesian environments»⁽¹³⁾.

The Salesians' General Chapter XXII defines how the Past Pupils belong to the Salesian Family and endorses it in Article 5 of the Constitutions. It gives their "received education" as the reason of their belonging: this education actually causes to be born in them through different levels of participation in the Salesian mission in the world...

«The Past Pupils are, in themselves, particularly well prepared, thanks to the education and formation they received, to assume responsibilities of collaboration according to the proper objectives of the Salesian project. The choice of evangelisation made by many of them is not an alternative to the education they received, but a privileged expression of it: therefore it does not constitute a different title to be applied to a sort of new Group»⁽¹⁴⁾.

The purpose of living this "received education" caused various local centres to emerge which were grouped into Provincial and National Federations. These, together, constitute the World Confederation which is the structured body through which the sense of belonging to the Salesian Family is expressed.

⁽¹³⁾ V. MARTORANA, "I am the Father of all of the Salesian Family, Let's Create Communion. Not Complaints!", *Voci Fraterne*, XLVI (2015) 1, p. 18 and 19.

⁽¹⁴⁾ "Guide to reading the comments to the Salesian Constitutions" p. 115.

Chapter I

Identity and Mission of the Past Pupils of Don Bosco

Art. 1 - Identity and Origin

«You are the salt of the earth ... the light of the world»⁽¹⁵⁾.

a) The World Confederation of the Past Pupils Don Bosco, also referred to as the Association, is a non-profit lay entity. It forms an integral part of the Salesian Family in which the Rector Major – the successor of Don Bosco – is the father and centre of unity.

The Past Pupils are: ~ the fruit of the Salesian Mission.

~ A gift of richness to humanity.

~ A powerful energy acting like leaven to the world.

b) In remembering the zeal of Don Bosco, the Past Pupils gathered for the first time, in a spontaneous and filial way, to express the need to unite and form the first foundations of a Movement.

c) This association, inspired by Don Filippo Rinaldi and perfected over the years, is currently grouped into Local Unions or Associations, Provincial Federations, National Federations and other recognised Groups. These, together, make up the “World Confederation of the Past Pupils of Don Bosco”, which is the recognised organisation through which a Past Pupil of Don Bosco is allowed to genuinely belong to the Salesian Family.

Art. 2 - Types of Identity

a) The Past Pupils of Don Bosco are persons who because they attended an oratory, a school or any other Salesian Presence, received a formation for life, in various and diverse ways and according to: different cultures, religion, the educational experience of each setting, the ability to accept individuals⁽¹⁶⁾, pursue the principles of Don Bosco’s Preventive System⁽¹⁷⁾ and to form persons by developing their individual authenticity.

b) We can recognise four of types of commitment of the Past Pupil of Don Bosco which can truly define their identity:

⁽¹⁵⁾ Mt 5, 13-14

⁽¹⁶⁾ E. VIGANÒ, Gli Exallievi di Don Bosco, in: “Acts of the General Council” LXVIII (1987) 321, p. 18.

⁽¹⁷⁾ Article 1b of the Statutes issued on the 31st January 1990.

~ For those who were students or attended a Salesian Presence and who build their identity as a life project, which encourages them to unite to continue their formation, to spread the educational charism of Don Bosco in society, and to develop specific projects for youth⁽¹⁸⁾.

~ For those who were students or attended a Salesian Presence and who built their identity as a choice, a mission, which they accept with all that it entails. They feel called to transmit the values received in their Salesian education: the spirit and teaching method of Don Bosco.

~ For those who were students or attended a Salesian Presence and who built their identity as a grace, because they have been touched by the zeal and desire of Don Bosco, in his profound human and saintly experience; this leads the Past Pupil to be identified as a Past Pupil of Don Bosco wherever they are.

~ For those who were students or having attended a Salesian Presence and who built their identity as a fact of life, an anecdote, which has not really touched their lives.

c) This educational experience has formed a commitment of filial loyalty, gratitude, and witness to the values of Don Bosco's system, with an ability for service, communion and involvement in the family spirit.

d) Gratitude leads the Past Pupils to participate in different ways and levels in the Salesian mission in the world.

Art. 3 - Mission

a) The Christian Past Pupil genuinely lives the promises of Baptism and Confirmation by imitating the original charisma of Don Bosco. This charisma is achieved in an apostolical committed lifestyle based on Reason, Religion and Loving-Kindness, aimed at youth and in keeping with the Joy that results from being a disciple of Christ.

b) The Association of the Past Pupils participates in the mission of Don Bosco and the Salesian Family in various ways:

~ by taking care of the "permanent formation" of its members,

~ by giving primary importance and taking care of the family,

~ by undertaking the education of youth with commitment,

(18) J. E. VECCHI, Past Pupil of Don Bosco towards 2000, in: VIII National Congress of Past Pupils of Don Bosco. Conference proceedings, Rimini, 10-13 October 1996, p. 67 and 68 quoted by P. CHÁVEZ, Inauguration speech of the Confederal President, Francesco Muceo, in the IV World Election Assembly 2010, minutes of the IV World Election Assembly of the Past Pupils, 2 October 2010.

- ~ “by advancing the values within the human person and respect for the dignity of man”⁽¹⁹⁾,
 - ~ by increasing active communion with all groups of the Salesian Family,
 - ~ by showing care towards those pupils at the end of their educational curriculum⁽²⁰⁾,
 - ~ by promoting activities at the service of humankind involving anyone who, being guided and animated by good will, work for the global and integral growth of the human person and the family according to the Church’s Social Doctrine,
 - ~ actively participating in the transformation of society.
 - ~ by manifesting an updated ecumenical awareness amongst Christians and bestowing an openness to dialogue with other religions without ever forgetting to examine closely their own Christian identity and evangelising mission, thus challenging every form of ethical relativism,
 - ~ by collaborating and or assuming responsibilities in educational centres.
- c) A Past Pupil of another religion participates in the ideals of Don Bosco, sharing the cultural, spiritual and social educational values of his Educational System and recognising them as a natural and universal common heritage of the human family. He/she becomes a giver of these values in his/her life and work settings, and also supports them with whatever their own religion and culture suggest⁽²¹⁾.
- d) All Past Pupils, considering the urgency of the problems of young people, proactively respond, even on personal level, to the educational needs of all those cultural and learning initiatives that interest young people in helping them develop and take on more responsibilities at all levels.

⁽¹⁹⁾ P. CHÁVEZ, Good night speech during the IV World Election Assembly 2010, minutes of the IV World Election Assembly of the Past Pupils, 30 September 2010.

⁽²⁰⁾ E. VIGANÒ, op. cit., pp. 29-35.

⁽²¹⁾ Article 2 of the Statutes promulgated on January 31, 1990

Chapter II

Belonging, Commitment and Formation in the Association

Art. 4 - Belonging and Formation

a) For those who live their commitment as “a choice, a mission” or “a life project” the Association will provide them with a programme of formation which also responds to their personal needs.

b) The Salesian Provincial, spiritual father of the Salesian Family in every Province, appoints a person to follow the spiritual formation of the Past Pupils at local and provincial level.

c) To deliver the formation programmes to the members, the Association will consider enrolling qualified members within the Salesian Family.

d) The sense of belonging of each member towards the Association should be reflected through specific signs:

~ by actively participating in the life of the Association;

~ by promoting the sense of belonging to future generations of the Association;

~ by honouring the economic, ethical and moral commitments towards the Association;

~ by demonstrating favour and active participation in social and educative projects promoted by the Association;

~ by giving witness to the values of the Preventive System in the family, workplace and in society;

~ by involving ourselves in the mission of the Church.

e) Enrolment in the Confederation takes place through the Local Associations and requires that the Past Pupil shares its aims and objectives according to the Statute and relevant National Regulations.

Art. 5 - Commitment to the Sense of Belonging

a) From the moment a Past Pupil freely decides to commit himself in the Association, he confirms and upholds the Prayer-Promise⁽²²⁾ of the Past Pupils.

b) The significance and meaning of the Prayer-Promise of the Past Pupils of Don Bosco is to express one's desire to live, every day, in profoundness the role of the laity in society and in the Church, and conserve Don Bosco's charisma where-ever they are.

²² When Past Pupils from other denominations decide to adapt the Prayer-Promise for Past Pupils to other faiths, the Federations are to consult and seek approval from the World Delegate of Past Pupils.



PRAYER AND PROMISE **of the alumni of Don Bosco**⁽²³⁾

O GOD, we the alumni of Don Bosco institutions from across the world,

THANK you for the invaluable gift of the salesian education we have received, and

ASK you with confidence, to give us the strength and courage, to live as God centered human beings, and morally upright citizens.

HELP us to nurture the virtues of faith, hope and charity and foster a spirit of unity, amongst all the members of our association.

WE AFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT to fight against injustice and indifference, while defending at all costs, the values inspired by Don Bosco's teachings, especially with regard to the upliftment of the marginalized youth in society.

WE WILL STRIVE, LIKE OUR FOUNDER, TO BE AGENTS OF POSITIVE TRANSFORMATION in the world.

We implore you to watch over the alumni, the salesian family and all our dear ones.

(Statute 2015, art. 5b)

(23) The Prayer-Promise can be recited by every past pupil and with their families. It can also be said in the beginning or at the end of meetings of local, provincial, regional or world level. It can be adapted to different situations as long as the content is faithfully respected. Each National or Provincial Federation may publish copies of the prayer to distribute among past pupils.

Chapter III

Aims and Objectives of the Association of the Past Pupils of Don Bosco

Art. 6 - General Aim

a) The general aim of the Association is to uphold those human values greatly to heart and defend them at all costs through social, political and financial commitment. In particular:

~ life: it is sacred, from birth until death. We have to help young people find meaning of life and be committed in safeguarding the quality of life, especially that of the poorest and most needy;

~ freedom: especially when governments appear to act more autarchic, although seem as if they are democratic, endangering the freedom and the common aim to build a better world where freedom is guaranteed for all;

~ truth: not only factual truth, but also the ethical and moral truth, especially when witnessing the transition from a healthy pluralism to relativism, which leads to nihilism and to the loss of any reference point, and consequently, the decline of society⁽²⁴⁾.

b) The Christian Past Pupil authentically lives the meaning of Baptism and Confirmation, emphasising the spirituality of Don Bosco expressed in an apostolical committed lifestyle as a result of being a disciple of Christ. To this end:

~ Promote activities at the service of people involving anyone who, being guided and animated by good will, and is committed to the global growth of the human person and respect for the family⁽²⁵⁾.

~ Promote the spiritual life and the active participation in the life of the Church as a sacrament.

~ Encourage an ecumenical spirit amongst Christians⁽²⁶⁾ and advocate for openness to dialogue with other religions.

⁽²⁴⁾ P. CHÁVEZ, Goodnight speech during the IV World Election Assembly 2010.

⁽²⁵⁾ Article 3 of the Statutes 1973.

⁽²⁶⁾ E. VIGANÒ, op. cit., p. 21.

c) Moreover, a Past Pupil of Don Bosco, either a Christian or of another religion, is called to express and develop the seeds that emerge from the “received education”, that is:

1. To carry out the mission with:

a) Professional competence.

b) Moral conscience.

c) Social commitment.

2. To plan formation and educational experiences.

3. To keep the received education alive and present, as exemplified by the Preventive System, as a precious inheritance and rich synthesis of thought and method that is to be wholly promoted.

4. Promote human dignity; the respect for life; a more just society; a culture of responsible work; as a means of sanctification.

Art. 7 - Educational Promotion

The Association of Past Pupils, conscious of its own special responsibility, binds itself with animating and promoting the personal growth of its members and all young people in Don Bosco committing itself to:

a) Plan experiences of permanent formation for the Past Pupils, designed to increase their on-going personal enrichment and update the received education, so they are able to face the demands of current times.

b) Be present as experts in the spheres in which educational policies of the young are developed.

Art. 8 - Family Commitment

The Association promotes and bears witness to the values and dignity of the family, founded on the sacrament of Marriage, promoting therein the principle of its indissolubility, the sacredness of life, the equality of rights and duties between spouses, a Christian education and of other faiths in the preventive educational method, and show respect to natural methods and aspirations of having children.

Art. 9 - Service to vocations and specific secular tasks

The Association accompanies young people in the choice of their professional career, their inclusion in the world of work and culture, their socio-political formation, the achievement of specific competencies in social communication, in the healthy use of free time, and in their response to their call. It looks after these factors through different involvement. Furthermore, the Association also promotes the Vocation of other groups in the Salesian Family and the Church.

Art. 10 - Volunteer Movement

The Association of the Past Pupils of Don Bosco encourages participation in various Salesian volunteer activities and promotes the personal commitment in the missionary apostolate.

Art. 11 - Attention to Young People

a) The Association looks after young people right from the first time they begin to attend a Salesian Presence, by promoting the Association and the advantages of joining the Movement as young members. It also promotes projects and programmes, with and for them, to suit their aspirations.

b) The Association contacts young people registered in the centres and other Salesian Presence as they will be the future Association's action of assistance, renewal and involvement.

Art. 12 - The Salesian Family

a) The Association increases active communion with the other groups of the Salesian Family by participating in new and existing arrangements that facilitate reciprocal appreciation, dialogue, collaboration and interaction of the different groups. Furthermore, it also participates annually in the World Consultative Council and the Spirituality Days of Salesian Family.

b) The Association studies and plans activities and agreements with the Past Pupils of FMA, the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (Salesian Sisters), thanks to the evident affinity of spirit and pedagogy which characterise the two Associations that share the same precious patrimony.

Art. 13 - Friends of Don Bosco

The Association is a point of reference and contact for anyone who "for any reason" feels committed to the Salesian work, shares its objectives and constitutes the vast movement of followers, including "the Friends of Don Bosco", who for a long time have worked, and are still active in society.

Chapter IV

Relations with the Salesians of Don Bosco

Art. 14 - Presence of the Salesians in the World Confederation

a) The World Confederation of the Past Pupils of Don Bosco recognises the Rector Major of the Salesian Congregation, as the father and centre of unity of the Salesian Family, and, as successor of Don Bosco, considers him the World Confederation's primary reference.

b) In the Confederal Presidency and in the Confederal Executive Council of the World Confederation, the Rector Major is represented by the Delegate of the Rector Major for the Salesian Family and the Confederal Delegate.

c) The World Confederal Delegate and the World Confederal Presidency are responsible, with the understanding of the Provincial, for the animation and assistance where the Past Pupils Association is not yet established.

d) At Province level, the Provincials and the Directors of Salesian Houses are responsible for the animation, likewise assisted by their respective Delegates in the National or Provincial Federations and in the Associations, Unions and Local Groups.

e) At any level, the Delegate carries out his role in the name of his Superior. He participates in the planning and coordination of the Movement's educational activities. He is present, at all levels, in the governing and executive bodies, in the role of advisor while closely following the Past Pupils, valuing and providing leadership to the laity.

Art. 15 - Salesian Animation

a) The World Confederation recognises, demands and considers the commitment of the Salesian Congregation in the role of animator of the Past Pupils of Don Bosco with the task of maintaining unity of spirit, stimulating dialogue, encouraging brotherly collaboration and promoting an enduring spiritual formation.

b) This animation also involves the Past Pupils and Religious Past Pupils (male and female).

Art. 16 - Autonomy in communion

The lay character, the secular nature and the autonomy of the World Confederation, do not hinder the perpetual union with the Salesian Society of Saint Francis of Sales and the other groups of the Salesian Family, but rather serves as a mutual enrichment and for an improved functioning of the Movement.

Chapter V

Organisation and Composition of the World Confederation of the Past Pupils of Don Bosco

Art. 17 - Organisation of the Association

a) The World Confederation of the Past Pupils is a unique organisation, without ethnic and religious distinctions. As a lay association, it has a juridical personality and its own representation which is recognised, where applicable, by individual States. Enrolment in the Confederation takes place through the Local Associations and requires that the Past Pupil shares its aims and objectives according to the respective statutes and relevant national regulations.

The Association is composed of:

b) Associations and Local Unions. These may be composed of:

~ Past Pupils of Don Bosco grouped around a Salesian Presence.

~ Past Pupils of Don Bosco who gather together but in their country are too far from the original Salesian House and show a desire to unite.

~ Past Pupils of Don Bosco who have immigrated from other nations or regions and show a desire to unite.

c) Provincial Federation

This is composed of all the Associations and Local Unions within a Salesian Province. Given the autonomy of each group of the Salesian Family, where there is the reorganisation of a Salesian Province, it is up to the members of that Federation to decide whether to keep the existing structure or otherwise adapt to the new reality of the Salesian Society.

d) National Federation

~ It consists of all the local associations and Provincial Federations within a country⁽²⁷⁾.

e) World Confederation

This is composed of all the National Federations and also of the Provincial Federations in a country where a National Federation does not exist.

(27) When a Salesian of Don Bosco Province consists more than one country, that Province may have more than one National Federation.

Art. 18 - Composition – Structures

The organising structures of the World Confederation of the Past Pupils of Don Bosco are:

- a) General World Assembly.
- b) Confederal Presidency.
- c) Confederal Executive Council.

The National and Provincial Federations and the Local Associations must organise themselves autonomously in compliance with their own National Federation Statute.

The organising structures of the National Federation are:

- a) National General Assembly.
- b) National Presidency, with representatives from all existing Provincial Federations or in the absence of these, the Local Associations including those recognized Groups that are eligible to be part of.
- c) National Executive Council.

The organising structures of the Provincial Federations are:

- a) Provincial General Assembly.
- b) Provincial Presidency, with representatives from all the existing Local Association.
- c) Provincial Executive Council.

The organising structures of the Local Associations are:

- a) General Assembly of all the members.
- b) Local Presidency.
- c) Executive Council of the Local Association.

To start a Local Association the minimum requirement is that a considerable group of Past Pupils expresses a desire to unite.

Art. 19 - Structures of the World Confederation

- a) World Confederal Presidency

The General World Assembly is the highest body of the Confederation of the Past Pupils of Don Bosco.

It is composed of:

~ The Presidents of the National Federations.

~ The Presidents of the Provincial Federations, wherever a National Federation does not exist or where there is only 1 Provincial Federation.

b) The World Confederal Presidency

It is composed of:

~ The Confederal President.

~ The Senior Confederal Vice-President (appointed amongst the 4 Adults Councillors, one from each Region).

~ The GEX Confederal Vice-President (appointed amongst 4 GEX Councillors, one from each Region)⁽²⁸⁾.

~ 4 adult and 4 GEX Regional Councillors.

~ Distribution of the region's representatives for the Confederal Presidency is as follows:

- Europe: 2 councillors, 1 adult and 1 GEX.

- Africa: 2 councillors, 1 adult and 1 GEX.

- Latin America: 2 councillors, 1 adult and 1 GEX.

- Asia: 2 councillors, 1 adult and 1 GEX.

~ The Delegate of the Rector Major for the Salesian Family.

~ The World Confederal Delegate.

~ The Secretary General, even when co-opted by the General World Assembly.

~ The Confederal Treasurer, even when co-opted by the General World Assembly.

~ The representative of the Priest Past Pupils.

(28) The 4 Regions are: Europe, America, Africa and Asia-Oceania-Australia.

c) The Confederal Executive Council

It is composed of:

~ The Confederal President.

~ The GEX Confederal Vice-President.

~ An Adult Regional Councillor (appointed by the Confederal Presidency amongst its elected 4 adult Regional Councillors).

~ The World General Secretary. ~ The Confederal Treasurer.

~ Delegate of the Rector Major for the Salesian Family. ~ The World Confederal Delegate.

d) Experts– Consultants

In the Confederal Presidency of the World Confederation, one or more experts – consultants but up to the maximum of 3 members can be coopted to the Presidency, in subjects in which a special competence is required. Their appointments must expressly indicate their abilities and terms of duration.

The commission's reports are not the exclusive property of the Presidency. The members of this commission do not have voting rights.

e) Special Commissions

The Confederal Presidency can likewise set up a Commission composed of experts Past Pupils – up to a maximum of 3 persons – in matters on the agenda for discussion, to whom special authority will be given to particular issues.

The Confederal Presidency will establish in advance the tasks and duties of the Commission, the work and the submission of timeframes for proposals and recommendations, to be issued in a final report for the Confederal Presidency of the World Confederation.

Art. 20 - Meetings and Reunions

a) The General World Assembly

~ The General World Assembly is organised by the Confederal Presidency. It meets every 6 years.

~ The convocation is sent by the World President and the Secretary General, at least a year before to guarantee the most possible participation, and will include the General Agenda.

b) Extraordinary General World Assembly

The Confederal Presidency can decide to hold an Extraordinary General World Assembly:

~ To call for new elections in the event of resignation of the majority ($\frac{1}{2} + 1$) of the Confederal Presidency, or of the entire Confederal Executive Council, or for any other reason.

~ At the request of at least $\frac{2}{3}$ of the members of the Confederal Presidency.

~ At the request of at least $\frac{1}{3}$ of the National Federations or of the Provincial Federations, when a National Federation does not exist in that country.

~ In particular serious circumstances, at the request of the Rector Major of the Salesian Society of Saint Francis of Sales, who also has the right to determine special procedural guidelines.

c) Meeting of the Confederal Presidency

The meeting of the members of the Confederal Presidency takes place every year.

At the invitation of the Confederal Presidency, and with a valid reason, one or more persons, up to a maximum of 3, can be invited to attend. The invited persons shall only participate in those matters on the Agenda which are assigned to them and have no voting rights.

d) Meeting of the Confederal Executive Council

The meeting of the members of the Confederal Executive Council takes place at least 3 times a year.

At the invitation of the Confederal Executive Council, and with a valid reason, one or more persons, up to a maximum number of 3, can be invited to attend.

However, invited persons shall only participate to those matters on the Agenda which are assigned to them and they have no voting rights.

Chapter VI

Information and Notices

Art. 21 - Information bodies

- a) Through the Confederation's official site, the Presidency will publish periodical news and information for the National Federations and for anyone interested in the Association's activities. The website may be supplemented by the publication of a newsletter.

- b) Each National Federation is called upon to collaborate with articles, news, experiences, that are considered useful, to be made known at world level through the above mentioned bodies.

Chapter VII

Banner, badge, merit awards, days of celebration

Art. 22 - Banner, badge, merit awards and days of celebration

a) The Confederal Banner is kept at the offices of the World Confederation. It shows the face of Don Bosco. It is placed on display at the time of solemn celebrations like anniversaries, international and world congresses, reunions and meetings.

b) The Badge, together with the Banner, is the visible sign of the unity of the Confederation and of the commitment to the organisation. Designed and cast at the request of the Confederal Presidency, it is deposited within the General Secretariat. It substantially reproduces the original design approved during the Second International Congress held in 1920.

c) The gold badge of merit, other certificates of loyalty and special diplomas are awarded for outstanding services.

d) The following annual feast days are celebrated:

~ 31st January - Feast of Don Bosco

~ 24th May - Feast of Mary Help of Christians

~ 24th June - World Feast of the Past Pupils in commemoration of Don Bosco's name day and the birth of the Past Pupils Movement

~ 5th October - Feast of Blessed Alberto Marvelli

~ 5th December - Feast of the Blessed Filippo Rinaldi

~ 8th December - Feast of the Immaculate Conception and commemoration of the beginning of the Salesian Family.

The Past Pupils of Don Bosco also participate in the Salesian Family celebrations organised at national, provincial and local level.

Chapter VIII

Disciplinary Rules and Penalties

Art. 23 - Disciplinary Rules and Penalties

a) Membership of the Association can cease through personal choice of the Past Pupil, or due to a considered decision of respective Presidencies at all levels.

After having proof of unbecoming conduct which is not in line with statutory rules and regulations, or that, is causing injurious damage to the organisation or community life, or due to other serious reasons, the respective Presidencies can decide with the consent of $\frac{2}{3}$ of their members only:

~ A motion of no-confidence and a request for resignation.

~ The dismissal from office (in case of an official).

~ The expulsion of the Past Pupil from the Association.

b) The decisions in the foregoing section may be appealed against by an immediately higher structure.

c) If a written complaint is made concerning a member of the Confederal Executive Council or the World Confederal Presidency, the Confederal Delegate after holding consultation with the Central Delegate of the Salesian Family and the Rector Major, will take a decision concerning the requested sanction (suspension, expulsion) with a common understanding with the remaining members of the Confederal Executive Council and the World Confederal Presidency.

PART III

DON BOSCO ALUMNI -- INDIA

Chapter IX

Statutes of the National Federation

Art.24 – Preamble

In its organizational structure, the association consists of the “Unit” at the local level, the “Provincial Federation” at the provincial level, the “National Federation” at the national level and the “World Confederation” at the international level.

- a) The Indian National Federation of Don Bosco Alumni consists of the Provincial Federations existing in the territory of India. It has the collective responsibility for the life, activities and growth of the Association in India. Every provincial federation pays the National Federation an annual affiliation fee, the quantity of which is determined by the National Council.
- b) The Indian National Federation is affiliated to the World Confederation of Don Bosco Past Pupils and accepts fully the statutes of the World confederation and considers them as the basis of its own statutes.

Art.25 – Aim of the Indian National Federation

The National Federation is particularly interested in organizing and promoting the association of the Alumni in India. It assists the provincial federations in carrying out their activities and keeping alive the ties of fraternal friendship initiated by Don Bosco and continued through his salesians.

Art.26 – Functions of the National Federation

The following are the main functions of the Federation:

- a) Holding of national committee and council meetings and organizing various national and international gatherings of alumni.
- b) Organizing periodic programmes for the on-going formation of the alumni, so that they, as individuals and groups, grow in their awareness of the obligations of being Don Bosco alumni. His, in concrete, would involve various activities like:
 - i. Study of the situation of the youth of the locality, especially of those who are marginalized or neglected, in view of addressing their most urgent needs.
 - ii. Study of Don Bosco’s system of education and the salesian spirit.
 - iii. Organizing programmes for developing leadership qualities in the alumni so that they become community leaders and agents of peace and harmony in society, promoters of justice and defenders of human rights.

- iv. Study and action on directives issues by the world confederation, national and international congresses etc.
- v. Organizing educational, social, cultural and spiritual activities for the alumni and for the young people of the region.
- vi. Organizing programmes to develop in young people the sense of responsibility and concern for society.

Art.27 – The National Council

The National Council is the Directive organ of the National Federation. The Council consists of the members of the National Committee and the Presidents, Secretaries and Delegates of the constituent provincial federations.

Art.28 – Functioning of the National Council

- a) The Council meets once a year. The meeting is convened by the National President in consultation with the National Delegate and the Committee. The National President presides over the national council meetings. Each member has a right to vote and the right is not transferrable. Members of the provincial federations which have not paid their dues to the national federation do not have the right to vote or to stand for elections. The resolutions are passed by a simple majority of the members present. The council needs a quorum of 7 members.
- b) Elected or co-opted members of the national council who absent themselves from two consecutive convened meetings are disqualified to stand for elections again for the next two terms.

Art.29 – Duties of the National Council

- a) To pass resolutions on the activities of the Federation.
- b) To approve the Annual Report and the statement of accounts
- c) To elect the National Committee members, subject to conditions imposed by Art.38h.
- d) To fix the membership subscription.

Art.30 – The National Committee

The National Committee is the Executive Organ of the National Federation. It consists of the following members:

- The National Delegate
- The National President
- The National Vice-President (Senior)
- The National Vice-President (GEX)

- The National Secretary
- The National Treasurer

The Committee may co-opt other members from time to time as the need arises. However, the number of co-opted members must always be less than the elected members. Co-opted members do not have the right to vote. The quorum is one more than half of the elected committee members.

Art.31 – Functions of the National Committee

- a) The committee meets once in 4 months
- b) It helps the National President to prepare the agenda for the National Council.
- c) It carries out the directives of the National Council with regard to the life, activities and growth of the association in India as a whole and in the provinces, without prejudice to the autonomy of each Provincial Federation.
- d) It is responsible for the preparation and conduct of national level programmes and manifestations such as national and international congresses and other special occasions.
- e) It looks after the publication and distribution of the National Press organ of the alumni (*Alumnus*).
- f) It fixes the annual contribution which every provincial federation must send to the national secretariat.
- g) It makes urgent decisions affecting the life of the organization when there is no time to gather the national council. Such decisions should be ratified afterwards by the national council.
- h) It is responsible for the distribution of membership cards to all the members of the national federation. The distribution is done through the provincial presidents.
- i) Elected or co-opted members of the national committee who absent themselves from two consecutive convened meetings are disqualified to stand for elections again for the next two terms.

Art.32 – The National Delegate

- a) He is approved by the Salesian Provincials' Conference of South Asia (SPCSA).
- b) To the alumni he represents the salesian congregation and the SPCSA.
- c) He carries out his animation through his interventions during meetings and gatherings, through his communications, personal contacts, visits etc.
- d) He is directly responsible for the on-going formation of the Don Bosco Alumni.

- e) He keeps the Salesian Provincial Conference of India (SPCI) informed of the state of the federation.
- f) He maintains timely communication with the World Delegate.
- g) He ensures that the Federation faithfully adheres to the statutes, rules and regulations of the organization and that everything is done in the spirit of Don Bosco.
- h) As an animator and guide he is present at all meetings and whenever his attendance is not possible he should keep himself informed of what takes place at the meeting.
- i) As a member of the committee, he takes full part in all its deliberations, decisions and activities.
- j) He is one of the signatories to all financial transactions.
- k) He guides and animates the provincial delegates.

Art.33 – The National President

- a) He represents the national federation both with respect to the salesian congregation and the World Confederation of the Don Bosco Alumni.
- b) In agreement with the National Delegate, he convenes the national committee meetings and presides over it. He draws up its agenda.
- c) In agreement with the committee, he convenes the national council meeting and presides over it. He draws up the agenda for the council meeting in consultation with the committee.
- d) He ensures that the decisions of the national council with regard to the functioning of the national committee are executed.
- e) He keeps the national delegate informed of how things are in the Federation and what happens in meetings which the delegate is unable to attend.
- f) He ensures that the federation is represented at the world confederal meetings to the extent possible. If the federation is not represented he should keep himself informed of the decisions, directions and activities of the confederation.
- g) He ensures that all the committee members carry out their duties in keeping with the rules and regulations of the association.
- h) After every major activity of the federation, he conducts an evaluation of it. Besides that, he assesses the overall performance of the federation once in four months paying particular attention to the membership, finances, formation and execution of deliberations.
- i) He keeps in touch with the Presidents of the provincial federations and offers them guidance and help in promoting the goals and objectives of the federation.

Art.34 – The National Vice-President (Senior)

- a) He is present at all committee and council meetings and assists the president in all his duties.
- b) He takes the place of the President in his absence.

Art.35 – The National Vice-President (GEX)

- a) He should not be more than 35 years of age at the time of election.
- b) He has special responsibilities with regard to the young alumni.
- c) He prepares the national plan for the recruitment and formation of new alumni.

Art.36 –The Secretary

- a) He keeps up-to-date the statistics regarding the federation, the list of names and addresses of the member federations and the list of all the Life Members of the national federation.
- b) He presents to the national council the annual report of the federation.
- c) He sends out notices for meetings of the committee and the council.
- d) He attends to the correspondence of the federation.
- e) He draws up the minutes of the meetings of the committee and the council.
- f) He prepares the chronicles and statistics by collecting necessary information, documents, photos etc. of the federation.
- g) He looks after and preserves the archives of the federation, taking special care in filing all correspondence and documentation.
- h) He prepares and sends to the world confederal secretariat the reports and documentation regarding the principal activities of the federation.
- i) He keeps the president informed of all happenings and events in the federation and ensures that no decision is made or any correspondence goes out of the office without the president's consent.
- j) On completing his tenure, he hands over all files and documentation to the incoming secretary.

Art.37 – The Treasurer

- a) He keeps up-to-date the inventory of goods owned or used by the federation.
- b) He receives the membership fees, donations and any other income and accounts for the same.
- c) He passes on to the world confederation the annual contribution stipulated by the confederation.

- d) He prepares the annual statement of accounts of the association, internally audited and presents the same to the national council for approval.
- e) He maintains the registers and books of accounts and carries out the administrative acts of the federation.
- f) He deposits money in the bank in the name of the federation which is to be operated by two signatories out of three (Delegate/Treasurer/President). The delegate should be a compulsory signatory to all financial transactions of the federation. However, he may delegate this power to the provincial delegate of the province where the treasurer resides.
- g) On completing his tenure of office, he hands over all registers, books of accounts and cash to the incoming treasurer.

Art.38 – Election Rules

- a) Elections are held once in four years.
- b) National federation will hold its elections after those of the provincial federations.
- c) Based on their experience, the national council fixes the number of members required for the new committee. This is to be done at the national council meeting prior to the one where the elections actually take place.
- d) National committee members are elected from a panel of candidates nominated by the provincial federations. Each provincial committee may nominate, using the prescribed format, two persons as candidates from its federation. Nominated members must be present at the election. Besides those nominated by the provincial federations, the national committee may nominate a candidate of its own choice.
- e) Nominations should be submitted to the Election Commission (EC) at least 20 days in advance of the date of election.
- f) The outgoing president will be the ex-officio member of the new committee with voting rights. He may be elected to any office, subject to the limitations placed on him by Art.41a. The other members of the outgoing committee may be nominated as candidates for election by their own federations with due regard to the limits imposed by Art.41a.
- g) The candidates nominated for election should be registered in their local units, active, enthusiastic and, if elected, available and willing to spare time and energy for the federation in the true spirit of Don Bosco.
- h) Election of the national committee is the privilege of the newly elected Presidents and secretaries of the constituent provincial federations, the outgoing national president, the national delegate and the provincial delegates. The members of the outgoing committee

(other than the national president and delegate) do not have the right to vote for the new committee.

- i) The voting is done for each post separately. To be elected, a candidate needs to obtain absolute majority (i.e. more than half the number of votes). In case of a deadlock after the first two ballots, the matter shall be decided by relative majority in the third ballot.

Art.39 – Electoral Commission (EC)

- a) The Electoral Commission consists of the National Delegate, the outgoing President, if he is not himself a candidate, and an independent person who is not in the Alumni Association. Where the outgoing President is himself a candidate for the election, the outgoing National Committee nominates another member in his place.
- b) The independent member is named by the outgoing committee. It is convenient to choose someone close to the place where the election is going to be held.
- c) The outgoing President or the one nominated to take his place in the EC (as described in 39a above) presides over the EC.
- d) The EC is the final authority in all matters related to elections.
- e) The EC has a right to reject a member's nomination if, in its opinion, the member is found unsuitable. The decision of the EC in this regard will be final and shall not be questioned.
- f) The EC shall record and file the minutes of all the proceedings of the election.
- g) Before the election, the EC shall brief the members about the procedures.

Art.40 – Election Procedure

- a) A year before the expiry of the National Committee's term, the National President, in consultation with his committee, announces the election for the next National Committee. (a suitable occasion to announce this could be the National Council meeting about a year prior to the election).
- b) After the National Committee election is announced, the National President, with his committee, fixes the date for the National Council meeting which has the task of electing the new National Committee.
- c) An Electoral Commission (EC) is then formed by the National Committee as stipulated in Arts.39a and 39b above.
- d) Nominations, as stipulated in Art.38d above are presented to the EC at least 20 days in advance of the date of election.

- e) Before the election, the EC verifies if the nominations are in order as per Art.38d and 38e above, and confirms the candidates' willing acceptance of the nomination.
- f) The EC then conducts the elections as per Arts.38h and 38i above.
- g) After the election, the EC signs off and hands over to the National Delegate the files and documentation regarding the election.

Art.41 – Duration of office

- a) The National President holds office for a period of four years and may be re-elected to the same office for a second term consecutively, but not for a third consecutive term. However, he may be elected to any other office. Anyone who has been elected for two terms as president shall not be eligible for that post again before the lapse of at least two terms.
- b) The other members of the committee are also elected for a term of four years. They may be re-elected to the same offices for consecutive terms without limit or may be re-elected to any other office.

Art.42 – Vacancies

When the office of a committee member becomes vacant due to any reason, the committee will appoint to that post someone else from the committee who shall hold office only till the completion of the mandate of the member who ceased to hold office.

Art.43 – Incompatibility

The office of the President and other members of the committee are incompatible with offices of a public character carrying grave responsibilities of a political nature.

Art.44 – Disciplinary action

As per Chapter VIII, Art.23, viz: **Disciplinary Rules and Penalties**

- a) Membership of the Association can cease through personal choice of the Past Pupil, or due to a considered decision of respective Presidencies at all levels.

After having proof of unbecoming conduct which is not in line with statutory rules and regulations, or that, is causing injurious damage to the organisation or community life, or due to other serious reasons, the respective Presidencies can decide with the consent of $\frac{2}{3}$ of their members only:

- ~ A motion of no-confidence and a request for resignation.
- ~ The dismissal from office (in case of an official).

~ The expulsion of the Past Pupil from the Association.

b) The decisions in the foregoing section may be appealed against by an immediately higher structure.

c) If a written complaint is made concerning a member of the Confederal Executive Council or the World Confederal Presidency, the Confederal Delegate after holding consultation with the Central Delegate of the Salesian Family and the Rector Major, will take a decision concerning the requested sanction (suspension, expulsion) with a common understanding with the remaining members of the Confederal Executive Council and the World Confederal Presidency.

In addition:

- i. If in the considered opinion of the National Committee, an alumnus at any level (national, provincial or unit) is found guilty of serious, unbecoming behaviour or any action that is gravely harmful to the association, the committee may decide, with a two-thirds majority vote, to take any suitable action against the member, including his/her removal from office or dismissal from the association. The decision regarding the disciplinary action should be conveyed to the member in writing. Information regarding the disciplinary action taken should be forwarded to the member's provincial and unit committees.
- ii. If the national committee fails to take action against an erring member, any member of the national council may bring up a motion in the national council for disciplinary action against the member in question. If in the considered opinion of the council the member is found guilty of serious unbecoming behaviour or any action that is gravely harmful to the association, the National Council may decide, with a two-thirds majority vote, to take any suitable action against the member, including his/her removal from office or dismissal from the association itself. The decision of the council in this regard is conveyed to the member in writing. Information regarding the action taken is also forwarded to the member's provincial and unit committees.
- iii. Any office bearer who does not attend three consecutive meetings without leave of absence shall cease to hold office. A decision in this regard shall be communicated to the member in writing, signed by the President and/or Secretary and countersigned by the Delegate. Information regarding this action shall be forwarded to the member's provincial and unit committees.
- iv. A member who is removed from an office or membership in the National Council following a disciplinary action contemplated in the above paragraphs, shall not hold office in the local, provincial or world federations till the completion of the term to which he/she was originally elected or as decided by the national council. A member dismissed from the association at any level (unit, province or national) shall not be reinstated without the approval of the National Committee.

- v. An appeal to the immediately superior body (World Confederal Presidency) against any of the decisions mentioned in the preceding paragraphs is allowed within 30 days of receipt of notice of the action.

Art.45 – Young Alumni (GEX)

- a) The Federation has, among its most important duties, in keeping with the specific mission of the Salesian congregation, the care of youth. The care of youth must be done with proper adaptation
 - (i) for the young persons who are about to leave the salesian institutions, and
 - (ii) for the young persons who have become alumni, by enhancing the value of their presence in the association.
- b) Keeping in mind the special needs of the groups mentioned above, the Vice-President (GEX), with the collaboration of the Committee and the Council, shall organize suitable programmes for them from time to time. To make these programmes effective, he shall network with the Provincial GEX Presidents.

Art.46 – Secretariat of the Federation

The Secretariat of the Indian National Federation will be located at:

Indian National Federation of Don Bosco Alumni, SPCI House - Don Bosco, B32 Street No 7, Dashrath Puri, Palam-Dabri Road, New Delhi, Delhi – 110045

Art.47 – Relationship with the Salesian Congregation

i. Presence of the Salesians in the World Confederation

- a) The World Confederation of the Past Pupils of Don Bosco recognises the Rector Major of the Salesian Congregation, as the father and centre of unity of the Salesian Family, and, as successor of Don Bosco, considers him the World Confederation's primary reference.
- b) In the Confederal Presidency and in the Confederal Executive Council of the World Confederation, the Rector Major is represented by the Delegate of the Rector Major for the Salesian Family and the Confederal Delegate.
- c) The World Confederal Delegate and the World Confederal Presidency are responsible, with the understanding of the Provincial, for the animation and assistance where the Past Pupils Association is not yet established.
- d) At Province level, the Provincials and the Directors of Salesian Houses are responsible for the animation, likewise assisted by their respective Delegates in the National or Provincial Federations and in the Associations, Unions and Local Groups.
- e) At any level, the Delegate carries out his role in the name of his Superior. He participates in the planning and coordination of the Movement's educational activities. He is present, at all levels, in

the governing and executive bodies, in the role of advisor while closely following the Past Pupils, valuing and providing leadership to the laity.

ii. Salesian Animation

a) The World Confederation recognises, demands and considers the commitment of the Salesian Congregation in the role of animator of the Past Pupils of Don Bosco with the task of maintaining unity of spirit, stimulating dialogue, encouraging brotherly collaboration and promoting an enduring spiritual formation.

b) This animation also involves the Past Pupils and Religious Past Pupils (male and female).

iii. Autonomy in communion

The lay character, the secular nature and the autonomy of the World Confederation, do not hinder the perpetual union with the Salesian Society of Saint Francis of Sales and the other groups of the Salesian Family, but rather serves as a mutual enrichment and for an improved functioning of the Movement.

iv. Further:

- a) Don Bosco alumni see in the Rector Major the image of Don Bosco and they accept him as their guide; they look to the salesians for an ongoing clear-cut and adequate spiritual guidance. They share in the mission of the salesian congregation and pledge themselves to be signs and bearers of God's love to all, especially the young and the poor.
- b) The Indian National Federation acknowledges the Salesian Provincials of the Indian Provinces as the representatives of the Rector Major and of the salesian congregation. The Provincials, by right, are part of the Committee and the Council of the National Federation. They ordinarily exercise their role through a salesian appointed by the Salesian Provincials' Conference of South Asia (SPCSA) to act as the National Delegate.
- c) The basic working principle of the Association is that all deliberations are made with the concurrence of the salesians, according to the family spirit of the educative community, which is characteristic of the association.

Art.48 – News letters

a) Through the Confederation's official site, the Presidency will publish periodical news and information for the National Federations and for anyone interested in the Association's activities. The website may be supplemented by the publication of a newsletter.

b) Each National Federation is called upon to collaborate with articles, news, experiences, that are considered useful, to be made known at world level through the above mentioned bodies.

The National Federation is expected to publish a newsletter at least once a year.

Art.49 – Federation Banner, badge, merit awards

a) The Confederal Banner is kept at the offices of the World Confederation. It shows the face of Don Bosco. It is placed on display at the time of solemn celebrations like anniversaries, international and world congresses, reunions and meetings.

b) The Badge, together with the Banner, is the visible sign of the unity of the Confederation and of the commitment to the organisation. Designed and cast at the request of the Confederal Presidency, it is deposited within the General Secretariat. It substantially reproduces the original design approved during the Second International Congress held in 1920.

c) The gold badge of merit, other certificates of loyalty and special diplomas are awarded for outstanding services.

Further to what is stated above, the National Federation shall have a banner of its own with the reproduction of the face of Don Bosco on it. It shall be exhibited at celebrations, meetings and all official functions.

Art.50 – Alumni association motto

The motto of the alumni shall be as given to us by our Father and Founder, Don Bosco: “KNOW, LOVE, HELP ONE ANOTHER AND KEEP UNITED”.

Art.51 – Identity Card

The National Federation shall provide each life member an identity card.

Art.52 – Finances

a) The national federation is financially supported by the membership fees, donations and money raised through various other means. All provincial federations have to contribute towards the support of the national federation.

b) Expenses of the council meeting (boarding and lodging of the participants) are taken care of by the national committee/the host provincial federation.

c) The travel expenses (sleeper class train x 3) of the national committee members are met by the national federation.

Chapter X

STATUTES OF THE PROVINCIAL FEDERATION

Introduction (to be deleted)

The Association of Don Bosco Alumni is a worldwide organization of the alumni of the Salesians of Don Bosco. The movement springs from the interest and affection which binds the alumni to Don Bosco and to the salesian family. Through the association, the members wish to maintain and develop the insights and inspiration received at the house/school of Don Bosco. The alumni belong to the salesian family by reason of that special bond forged by their being educated in a Don Bosco educational centre.

Art.53 – The Provincial Federation

A Provincial Federation is made up of the units of Don Bosco alumni in a province of the Salesians of Don Bosco. Every salesian province has the right to constitute a Provincial Federation of the alumni. Once constituted, it requests the recognition of the National Federation. The Provincial Federation is aware of the commitments contained in the Statutes and Regulations of the Association at local, provincial, national and world levels.

To constitute a Provincial Federation, there should be at least three local units in a province and the salesian provincial appoints the Provincial Delegate who ascertains from the units their desire to form a Provincial Federation. The Provincial Delegate facilitates the election of the office bearers of a newly constituted Provincial Federation and presides over the first electoral assembly. The procedure for the election of the office bearers of a newly constituted Provincial Federation will be as follows:

- a) The Provincial Delegate calls together the electoral assembly for the election of the first Provincial Committee. The electoral assembly for this first election consists of all the members of the unit committees.
- b) The electoral assembly first decides on the number of members required for the provincial committee and the number of names a unit may propose as candidates for the election of the first committee, so that the number of candidates proposed is more than the number of members required for the committee.
- c) The committee members are elected from amongst a list of candidates proposed by the unit committees.
- d) From the proposed list, the electoral assembly elects the required number without assigning any office to any individual. A relative majority is sufficient for this election.

Art.54 – Duties of the Provincial Council

- a) To pass resolutions on the activities of the federation.
- b) To approve the annual report and statement of accounts.
- c) To elect the committee members, subject to conditions imposed in Art.63h.
- d) To fix the membership subscription.

Art.55 – The Provincial Committee

- a) The Provincial Committee is the executive organ of the provincial federation. The committee is made up of the following persons:
 - i. the Provincial Delegate
 - ii. the Provincial President
 - iii. the Provincial Vice-President (senior)
 - iv. the Provincial Vice-President (GEX)
 - v. the Provincial Secretary
 - vi. the Provincial Treasurer, and
 - vii. normally, three councillors.

All members other than the Delegate are elected. The Delegate is appointed by the Provincial.

- b) The committee may co-opt other alumni. Co-opted members shall not have the right to vote.
- c) The quorum is one more than half of the elected members of the committee.
- d) The committee shall normally meet once a month and whenever the President and the Delegate deem it necessary.
- e) Elected or co-opted members of the provincial committee who do not have at least 50 per cent attendance at the convened meetings of the council in a year are disqualified to stand for elections again for the next two terms. However, those who fall short of the 50 percent in any year may be considered eligible by the election commission if they have an aggregate of at least 75 per cent attendance in a four year term

Art.56 – The Delegate

- a) The delegate is not elected but appointed by the salesian provincial to act in his stead as a spiritual animator and guide. For the federation, he represents Don Bosco and the salesian congregation.

- b) He is directly responsible for the on-going formation of the alumni
- c) He carries out his work of animation through his interventions during the meetings and gatherings, through his communications, personal contacts, visits etc.
- d) He keeps the provincial informed about the state of the federation.
- e) He maintains timely communication with the National Delegate and keeps him informed about the situation of the Federation.
- f) He ensures that the federation faithfully adheres to the statutes, rules and regulations of the association and that everything is done in the spirit of Don Bosco.
- g) As an animator and guide, he is present at all meetings and gatherings. Whenever he is unable to attend, he keeps himself informed of what takes place at the meetings.
- h) As a member of the committee and council, he takes full part in all its deliberations, decisions and activities.
- i) He acts as a link between the alumni and the province.
- j) He is a compulsory signatory to all the financial transactions of the federation.
- k) He animates and guides the unit delegates.

Art. 57: The Provincial President

- a) He represents the Federation in its dealings with the Salesian Congregation, the National Council and also with religious and civil authorities and the public.
- b) He convenes and prepares the agenda for the meetings of the Provincial Council and Committee, and presides over them.
- c) He communicates to his Committee and to the Units the decisions of the National Council and sees to the execution of those decisions which have a bearing on the Provincial Federation.
- d) He keeps the Provincial Delegate informed of how things are in the Federation, and what happens at the meetings when the Delegate has not been present.
- e) He ensures that the Federation is represented at all National Council meetings and at other national level gatherings to which the Provincial Federation is invited.
- f) He ensures that all Committee members carry out their duties diligently and in keeping with the regulations.

- g) After every major activity he conducts an evaluation of it. Besides that, once in four months, he makes an assessment of the overall performance of the Federation especially with regard to membership, finances, formation, deliberations carried out, etc.
- h) He offers guidance and encouragement to the Unit Presidents.

Art. 58: Provincial Vice-President (Senior)

- a) He is present at all Council and Committee meetings and assists the President in his duties.
- b) He takes the place of the President in his absence.

Art. 59: Provincial Vice-President (GEX)

- a) He should not be more than 35 years at the time of his election.
- b) He takes part in all Committee meetings. To him is entrusted the care and concerns of the Young Alumni. He is especially responsible for their recruitment and formation.

Art. 60: Provincial Secretary

- a) He keeps up-to-date the list of names and addresses of members.
- b) He prepares and sends out notices for meetings of the Committee and the Council.
- c) He attends to the correspondence of the Federation.
- d) He draws up the minutes of the meetings of the Committee and the Council.
- e) He presents to the National Council the annual report of the activities of the Provincial Federation.
- f) He prepares the chronicles and statistics by collecting the necessary information, documentation, photos of activities/events, etc. of the Federation.
- g) He looks after the archives of the Federation, taking special care to file all correspondence and to keep all the files up-to-date.
- h) He prepares and sends to the National Secretariat reports and documentation regarding the principal activities of the Federation.
- i) He keeps the President informed of how things are in the Federation and ensures that no decision is made or any correspondence sent out of the office without the President's knowledge and consent.
- j) On the completion of his tenure of office, he hands over all files and documentation of the Federation to the incoming Secretary.
- k) He hands over the balance sheet of the audited account to the national committee.

Art. 61: Provincial Treasurer

- a) He prepares and keeps up-to-date the inventory of goods owned or used by the Federation.
- b) He receives membership subscriptions, donations and any other income, and keeps account of the same.
- c) He prepares the internally audited Statement of Accounts of the Federation to be approved by the Council.
- d) He keeps all the registers of accounts well maintained and carries out the administrative acts of the Federation.
- e) He deposits the money of the Federation in an account with a bank in the name of the Federation which is to be operated by two signatories out of three (Delegate/ President/ Treasurer). Of the three, the Delegate should be the compulsory signatory.

- f) He passes on to the National Federation the amount fixed as contribution from the Provincial Federation.
- g) On completion of his tenure, he hands over all registers, books cash and documents relating to finance to the incoming treasurer.

Art. 62: The Councillors

The Councillors take part in the Committee meetings with full and equal rights as the other members. They may be assigned special tasks by the President. Co-opted councillors will not have the right to vote.

Art. 63: Election Rules

- a) Elections are held once in four years.
- b) Provincial Federations shall have their elections prior to that of the National Federation and after those of the local Units.
- c) Based on their experience, the Provincial Council fixes the number of members required for the new Committee. This is to be done well before the announcement of the Committee election. The outgoing committee names the independent member of the Electoral Commission.
- d) Provincial Committee members are elected from a panel of candidates nominated by the Units. Nomination is done using a prescribed format. Nominated candidates must be present at the election. Depending on the number of local Units in a province, the provincial committee decides on the number of candidates a unit may nominate. Besides those nominated by the units, the Provincial Committee may nominate a candidate of its own choice.
- e) Nominations from the Units are to be submitted to the Electoral Commission (EC) at least 20 days in advance of the date of the election.
- f) The outgoing members of the Provincial Committee may be nominated as candidates for election to the new committee by their own Units, without prejudice to articles 66a and 66b.
- g) The candidates nominated for election should be registered in their local units, active, enthusiastic and, if elected, available and willing to spare time and energy for the Federation in the true spirit of Don Bosco.
- h) Election of the Provincial Committee is the privilege of the newly elected Presidents and Secretaries of the constituent Units, the outgoing Provincial President, the Provincial Delegate and the Unit Delegates. The members of the outgoing Committee (other than the President and the Delegate) do not have the right to vote in the election for the new committee.
- i) Committee members are elected by the electors from the list of nominees, without assigning particular offices to any one of them. For being elected to the Committee, candidates need to obtain only a relative majority. The outgoing President will be an ex-officio member of the Committee with voting rights; he may be elected to any office, subject to the limitations imposed by art. 66a.
- j) The Committee members elect the office bearers (i.e. President, Senior Vice-President, GEX Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Councillors) from among themselves by separate voting for each post, without prejudice to what is laid down in art. 66a. To be elected, office bearers need to obtain absolute majority (half +). In case of a deadlock after the first two ballots, the matter shall be decided by relative majority, in the third ballot.

Art. 64: Electoral Commission (EC)

- a) The Electoral commission consists of the Provincial Delegate, the outgoing President if he is not himself a candidate and an independent person who is not in the Alumni Association. Where the outgoing President is himself a candidate for the election, the outgoing committee nominates another member in his place.
- b) The independent member is named by the outgoing Committee.
- c) The Outgoing President or the one nominated to take his place in the EC (as described in 64a, above) presides over the EC.
- d) The EC is the final authority on all matters related to elections.
- e) The EC has a right to reject a member's nomination if, in its opinion, the member is found unsuitable. The decision of the EC in this regard will be final and shall not be questioned.
- f) The EC shall record and file the minutes of all the proceedings of the election.
- g) Before the commencement of the election, the EC will brief the members about the procedures.

Art 65: Election Procedure

- a) After the National Committee election is announced, the Provincial President, with his Committee, fixes the date for the Provincial Council meeting to elect the new Committee and names the Electoral Commission (EC) as per Art 64a & 64b. Notice of election is given at least 45 days in advance by the President and a copy sent to the National President.
- b) The President asks the Units to get ready for their elections in such a way that they complete them before the Provincial elections.
- c) The EC calls for nominations from the Units as stipulated in Art. 63d & 63e.
- d) After the nominations arrive, the EC prepares the ballot papers with the names of all the nominees.
- e) Before the election, the EC verifies if the nominations are in order as per Art. 63g of the Statutes and confirms the candidates' willing acceptance of the nomination.
- f) The EC distributes the ballot papers to the electors who will indicate their choice by ticking the names on the ballot papers, without assigning particular offices to any one of them. Only "x" number of names shall be ticked, where "x" is the total number of committee members required. The outcome of the voting will be decided by relative majority as stipulated in Art. 63i.
- g) After the election of the Committee Members, the EC signs off and hands over to the Provincial Delegate the files and documentation regarding the election.
- h) Thereafter, the members elected to the Committee will meet with the Provincial Delegate to elect the office bearers (namely: President, Vice-President–Senior, Vice-President-GEX, Secretary, Treasurer and Councillors) as stipulated in Art. 63j of the statutes. The Delegate presides over this meeting with the right to vote.

Art. 66: Duration of Office

- a) The Provincial President holds office for a period of four years and may be re-elected to the same office for a second term consecutively, but not for a third consecutive term. He may, however, be elected to another office. Anyone who has been elected for two terms as president shall not be eligible for that post again before the lapse of at least two terms. In exceptional cases, if it seems unavoidable, a written permission must be sought from the National Committee.
- b) The other members of the Committee are also elected for a term of four years. They may be re-elected to the same offices for consecutive terms without limit, or may be elected to any other office.

Art. 67: Vacancies

When the office of a Committee member other than a councillor becomes vacant due to any reason, the Committee will appoint another committee member to that post, but only till the completion of the mandate of the member who has ceased to hold office.

Art 68: Incompatibility

The offices of the President and other members of the Committee are incompatible with offices of a public character, carrying grave responsibilities of a political nature.

Art 69: Disciplinary Action

As per Chapter VIII, Art.23, viz: **Disciplinary Rules and Penalties**

a) Membership of the Association can cease through personal choice of the Past Pupil, or due to a considered decision of respective Presidencies at all levels.

After having proof of unbecoming conduct which is not in line with statutory rules and regulations, or that, is causing injurious damage to the organisation or community life, or due to other serious reasons, the respective Presidencies can decide with the consent of $\frac{2}{3}$ of their members only:

~ A motion of no-confidence and a request for resignation.

~ The dismissal from office (in case of an official).

~ The expulsion of the Past Pupil from the Association.

b) The decisions in the foregoing section may be appealed against by an immediately higher structure.

c) If a written complaint is made concerning a member of the Confederal Executive Council or the World Confederal Presidency, the Confederal Delegate after holding consultation with the Central Delegate of the Salesian Family and the Rector Major, will take a decision concerning the requested sanction (suspension, expulsion) with a common understanding with the remaining members of the Confederal Executive Council and the World Confederal Presidency.

In addition:

- i) If in the considered opinion of the Provincial Committee, an alumnus/i is found guilty of gravely unbecoming behaviour or any action that is gravely harmful to the Association, the Committee may decide, with a two-thirds majority vote, to take any suitable action against the member, including his/her removal from office or dismissal from the Association. The decision regarding the disciplinary action should be conveyed to the member in writing. Information regarding the disciplinary action taken should be forwarded to the National Committee and to the member's Unit Committee.
- ii) In exceptional cases, if the Provincial Committee fails to take action against an erring member, any member of the Provincial Council may bring up a motion in the Provincial Council for disciplinary action against the member. If in the considered opinion of the Council, the member is found guilty of serious unbecoming behaviour or any action that is gravely harmful to the Association, the council may decide, with a two-thirds majority vote, to take any suitable action against the member, including removal from

office or dismissal from the Association. The decision of the Council in this regard shall be conveyed to the member in writing. Information regarding the action taken shall be forwarded to the National Committee and to the member's Unit Committee.

- iii) Any office bearer who does not attend three consecutive meetings without leave of absence in writing, shall cease to hold office. A decision in this regard shall be communicated to the member in writing, signed by the President and/or Secretary, and countersigned by the Delegate. Information regarding this action shall be forwarded to the National Committee and to the member's Unit Committee.
- iv) A member who is removed from an office or membership in the Provincial Council following a disciplinary action contemplated in the above paragraphs, shall not hold an office in the Local, National or World Federations till the completion of the term for which he/she was originally elected. A member dismissed from the association at any level shall not be reinstated without the approval of National Committee.
- v) An appeal to the immediately superior body (National Committee) against any of the decisions mentioned in the preceding paragraphs is allowed within 30 days of receipt of notice of the action.

Art 70: Young Alumni – GEX

- a) The Federation has, among its most important duties, in keeping with the specific mission of the Salesian Congregation, the care of youth. The care of the youth must be done, with proper adaptation, (i) for the young persons who are about to leave the institutions, and (ii) for the young persons who have become past pupils, by enhancing the value of their presence in the Association.
- b) Keeping in mind the special needs of the groups mentioned above, the Vice-President (GEX), with the collaboration of the Committee and the Council, shall organize suitable programmes for them, from time to time. To make these programmes effective, the GEX president shall network with the National and Unit GEX presidents.

Art 71: Secretariat of the Federation

The Provincial Federation shall have its secretariat preferably in the Provincial House or any other house designated by the Salesian Provincial. The Province places at its disposal a place suitable for its meetings and organization.

Art 72: Newsletter of the Federation

The Provincial Federation is expected to publish a newsletter at least once in six months.

Art 73: Federation Banner, badge, merit awards

- a) The Confederal Banner is kept at the offices of the World Confederation. It shows the face of Don Bosco. It is placed on display at the time of solemn celebrations like anniversaries, international and world congresses, reunions and meetings.
- b) The Badge, together with the Banner, is the visible sign of the unity of the Confederation and of the commitment to the organisation. Designed and cast at the request of the Confederal Presidency,

it is deposited within the General Secretariat. It substantially reproduces the original design approved during the Second International Congress held in 1920.

c) The gold badge of merit, other certificates of loyalty and special diplomas are awarded for outstanding services.

Further to what is stated above, every Federation shall have a banner of its own with the reproduction of the face of Don Bosco on it. It shall be exhibited on occasions of solemn celebrations and meetings.

Art 74: Alumni Association's Motto

The motto of the Don Bosco Alumni shall be as given to us by our Father and Founder, Don Bosco: "KNOW, LOVE, HELP ONE ANOTHER AND KEEP UNITED"

Art. 75: Finances

The Federation is financially supported by the membership subscriptions, donations and money raised through various other means. Each Provincial Federation has to contribute towards the support of the National Federation.

Art 76: Authentic Text of the Statutes

The authentic text of these Statues is the one approved by the Council of the National Federation.

Art 77: Relationship with the Salesian Congregation

- a) The members of the Association see in the Rector Major the image of Don Bosco and they accept him as their guide; they look to the Salesians for an ongoing clear-cut and adequate spiritual guidance. They share in the mission of the Salesian Congregation and pledge themselves to be signs and bearers of God's love to all, especially to the young and to the poor.
- b) The Federation acknowledges the Provincial as the representative of the Rector Major and the Salesian Congregation. He is by right a member of the Committee but, as a rule, he exercises that responsibility through a Salesian appointed to act as his Delegate.
- c) The basic working principle of the Association is that all deliberations are made with the concurrence of the Salesians, according to the family spirit of the educative community which is characteristic of the Association.

Art. 78: Interpretation of Statutes

The interpretation of the Provincial Federation Statutes and Regulations is left to the committee of the National Federation. In case of any disagreement, the final authority for authentic interpretation is the Councillor General in charge of the Alumni.

Art. 79: Amendments

Any amendment to these Statutes needs the approval of the Council of the National Federation, with more than half the members voting in favour.

First approved by the National Council of Don Bosco Alumni-India during its meeting at Mannuthy on 7 November 2005. Further amendments approved by the National Council at Trichy 2007, Kohima in June 2008, Tura in November 2009, Goa in June 2011 and at New Delhi in October 2012.

Amendments:

- 1. The outgoing President joins the Provincial Committee in the formation of the next Committee as the Immediate Past President as member with full voting rights.*
- 2. Article 9 sub-section (e), should be read as 60% attendance.*
- 3. Any Committee or Council member if absent for two consecutive council meetings without informing the President and without valid reasons may be asked to step down from the Committee /Council.*
- 4. The Provincial Federation with the consent and approval of the National Council can go for registration under the Societies Act only, in their respective State. They can register as a "Society" under the Societies Registration Act and get their Permanent Account Number (PAN) from the Income Tax authorities. For all such registrations, the SDB Delegate is the compulsory signatory. The Society thus formed is governed by the Statutes of Don Bosco Alumni, Indian National Federation.*
- 5. Article 17 sub-section (a) should be read as "Elections are held once in four years, unless otherwise directed by the National Council."*
- 6. The outgoing Provincial committee may use their rights to nominate one person/member for the elections of the Provincial committee but he/she who is nominated has to win the elections to be the member of the committee.*
- 7. When the Provincial Committee feels the need to co-opt a member from a particular into the Committee to ensure representation of Unit, they should give the Units the right to propose the candidate, so that he/she will be truly representing the Unit.*

Sd/-
Rajiv Tikmany
National President

Sd/-
Fr. M.Noel, SDB
National Delegate

CHAPTER XI

STATUTES OF THE LOCAL UNIT

Introduction (Delete)

The Association of Don Bosco Alumni is a worldwide organization of the alumni/alumnae of the Salesians of Don Bosco. The movement springs from the interest and affection which binds the alumni/ae to Don Bosco and to the Salesian Family. Through the Association, the members wish to maintain and develop the insights and inspiration received at the school of Don Bosco. The Alumni belong to the Salesian Family by reason of that special bond forged by their being educated in a Don Bosco educational centre.

In its organizational structure, the Association consists of the „Unit“ at the local level, the „Provincial Federation“ at the province level, the „National Federation“ at the national level and the „World Confederation“ at the international level.

Art 80: Name and Identity of Alumni Association

The Association is known as “Don Bosco Alumni Association”.¹

- a) Don Bosco Alumni are persons who have attended a Don Bosco institution² and thus received a preparation for life based on the principles of Don Bosco’s educational system, commonly known as the Preventive System.
- b) The education received creates in them bonds of filial loyalty and gratitude and a readiness to witness to the values of Don Bosco’s educational system as well as a capacity for service.
- c) Don Bosco Alumni are inspired by gratitude to participate in Don Bosco’s mission and educational project in the world, in ways that are consonant with their state in life.
- d) To take part in the Association of Don Bosco Alumni, an alumnus/alumna has to register himself/herself in a local unit and accept to abide by the rules and regulations of the Association of Don Bosco Alumni in India.

Art 81: The Unit

- a) The Unit is made up of alumni who, aware of the commitments contained in the Statutes and Regulations of the Association of Don Bosco Alumni at unit, province, national and world levels, have voluntarily organized themselves into an association attached to a Don Bosco Institution.
- b) A Unit is formally constituted through a decision of the Rector and the Council of the Don Bosco Institution (House Council) to which it is attached. Every unit has a Salesian Delegate appointed by the Salesian provincial.

¹ The name was changed from “Don Bosco Past Pupils” to “Don Bosco Alumni” with effect from 23 September 2007 by a unanimous decision of the National Council which met at Don Bosco Provincial House, Tiruchy.

² Here the word „institution“ implies any Don Bosco (Salesian) establishment such as formal and non-formal educational centres, oratories, youth centres, works for the young at risk, etc, where young people receive formation or training.

- c) To the House Council also belongs the power to dissolve a Unit on the recommendation of the Unit Delegate. However, such a step should be taken only with the understanding of the Provincial Committee of the Past Pupils, if a Provincial Federation already exists there (see art. 12g). In the event of such a step being taken, the House Council appoints an ad hoc Unit Committee to function till the next meeting of the Annual General Assembly (AGA), which may confirm the choice of the House Council or elect others. The ad hoc Committee will, however, remain in office only till the expiry of the term to which the dissolved Committee was elected.
- d) While starting a new unit, the Salesian delegate facilitates the election of the committee. He may be assisted by the Provincial Committee, if a Provincial Federation already exists there. The following procedure is adopted for the election of the committee of a new unit that is being set up.
 - i) The Delegate invites all the alumni who are desirous of forming a unit to come together for a general assembly to elect the office bearers (see Art. 11) and to fix the membership fee (see Art. 5).
 - ii) The general assembly elects, from among themselves, the office bearers (President, Vice-President Senior, Vice-President GEX, Secretary, Treasurer, and councillors) by separate voting for each post. To be elected, office bearers need to obtain absolute majority (half +). In case of a deadlock after the first two ballots, the matter shall be decided by relative majority, in the third ballot.
 - iii) After the elections, the founding members register themselves and pay the membership fees.
- e) Every unit pays to the Provincial Federation an annual affiliation fee, the quantity of which is determined by the Provincial Council of the Alumni.

Art 82: Aims of the Association

- a) The general aims of the Association of Don Bosco Alumni are:
 - ☐ to keep in touch with, unite and animate all former beneficiaries of Don Bosco education so as to help them to preserve, develop and live the values of Don Bosco's educational system;
 - ☐ to spread the spirit of Don Bosco and to involve themselves in Don Bosco's mission to the youth of today;
 - ☐ to uphold and promote the value and the rights of the human person and the family; and
 - ☐ to work towards building up a social and political order based on justice, peace and harmony.
- b) Every Unit of the alumni aims at serving all former pupils, irrespective of whether they are registered or not. Every alumnus tries to keep alive the ties of fraternal friendship initiated by Don Bosco and continued through his Salesians.

Art 83: Enrolment and Membership

- a) To become a member of a Unit, an alumnus/a should have frequented a Don Bosco institution for a period of time sufficient to enable him/her to know Don Bosco and assimilate the spirit of Don Bosco to some extent.
- b) He/she has to submit a written application for membership to the Unit secretary, together with the membership subscription. If the Unit committee finds the application in order, the applicant is enrolled.

- c) To take membership from a Unit attached to a particular institution, one need not have frequented the same institution. It is sufficient that he/she had frequented a Don Bosco institution anywhere in the world.
- d) Don Bosco Alumni who have passed through more than one Don Bosco institution take membership from the Unit of their choice. In case of transfer of residence, an alumnus/a may take membership from a Unit that is more convenient to him/her, after intimating the unit of origin and getting a no-objection letter from it.
- e) There are two types of membership – Annual and Life. While enrolling in a Unit, it is the right of the individual to choose the type of membership (Annual or Life) he/she wants; it cannot be imposed on them by the Unit. Life members shall receive a Life Membership Card from the National Federation.
- f) When an individual ceases to be a member of a local unit through voluntary resignation or an act of dismissal by competent authority, the member also loses his/her membership/office (if any) in the Provincial as well as National Federations and the World Confederation.

Art. 84: Membership Subscription

- a) The Unit fixes the subscription amount for both annual and life membership. However, for every life subscription collected, the Unit shall pass on to the Provincial Federation the cost of the life membership card + 25% of the subscription amount, while the Provincial Federation shall, in turn, pass on to the National Federation the cost of the card + 25% of the 25% it receives from the Unit.
- b) Members who transfer from one Unit to another shall pay to the new Unit its membership subscription – annual or life. However, life members who transfer from one unit to another within the same province need to pay only the unit's share of the subscription (i.e. 75%). If the transfer is to a unit in a different province, the unit's share and the Provincial Federation's share should be paid (i.e. 75% + 18.75%). When a Life Member changes province and desires a new Life Membership Card, the cost of the card has to be paid anew.
- c) Annual members who may be elected to the Unit Committee, will lose their membership in the Committee if, at any time, their subscription fee becomes overdue by more than 30 days. A decision in this regard is communicated to the member signed by the president or secretary or treasurer and countersigned by the Delegate.

Art 85: Rights of Members

Registered members have the right to:

- a) Vote during meetings and elections in the Unit of one's registration, subject to Art 98d, and provided he/she has paid the membership subscription.
- b) To receive the official news organ and other communications.
- c) Enjoy other facilities granted by each unit.

Art 86: Activities

Any activity of the Unit is valid if it corresponds to the aims of the Association. The unit encourages its members to be active as a group and as individuals in any work or project that promotes the aims of the Association.

Art 87: Tasks of the Unit

- a) To hold the Annual General Assembly (AGA).
- b) To hold periodic programmes for the on-going formation of the alumni so that they, as individuals and groups, grow in their awareness of the obligations of being Don Bosco Alumni. This in concrete would involve various activities like:
 - ☐ Study of the situation of the youth of the locality, especially of those who are marginalized or neglected, in view of addressing their most urgent needs.
 - ☐ Study of Don Bosco's system of education and the spirit of Don Bosco
 - ☐ Organizing programmes for developing leadership qualities in the alumni so that they become community leaders and agents of peace and harmony in society, promoters of justice, and defenders of human rights.
 - ☐ Organizing educational, social, cultural and spiritual activities for themselves and for the young people of the locality.
 - ☐ Organizing programmes to develop in young people the sense of responsibility and concern for society.
 - ☐ Study and implementation of the resolutions /directives of the Provincial Federation.

Art 88: Annual General Assembly (AGA)

The Annual General Assembly (AGA) is the Directive Organ of the Unit. The AGA is held once a year, to which all alumni are invited. However, only those who are registered and paid the membership subscription may vote at the AGA.

Art 89: Tasks of the Annual General Assembly

- a) To pass resolutions on the activities of the Unit.
- b) To approve the Annual Report and the Statement of Accounts.
- c) To elect the Committee members of the Unit.
- d) To fix membership subscription.

Art 90: The Unit Committee

- a) The Unit Committee is the Executive Organ of the Unit. The Committee consists of the Delegate, President, Vice-President (Senior), Vice-President (GEX), Secretary, Treasurer and a minimum of four Councillors.
- b) The Committee may co-opt other alumni. Co-opted members have no right to vote.
- c) The quorum is one more than half of the elected members.
- d) The Committee meets once a month, and whenever the President and the Delegate deem it necessary.
- e) To foster the growth of the Unit and create better relationship among the alumni, the monthly meetings of the Unit Committee may be followed by an informal meeting with all the alumni who are able to attend.
- f) Elected or co-opted members of the Local Committee who do not have at least 50 per cent attendance at the convened meetings in a year are disqualified to stand for elections again for the next two terms. However, those who fall short of the 50 per cent attendance in any year may be considered eligible by the Election Commission, if they have an aggregate of at least 75 per cent attendance in a four-year term.

Art 91: The Delegate

- a) The Delegate is not an elected member. He is appointed by the Salesian Provincial. He takes the place of Don Bosco, as a spiritual animator and guide. Wherever the Delegate is not the Rector of the House, he acts as his representative.
- b) He is directly responsible for the on-going formation of the alumni.

- c) He carries out his work of animation through his interventions during the meetings and gatherings, through his communications, personal contacts, visits, etc.
- d) If he is not himself the Rector, he takes care to brief the Rector and his Council regularly regarding the plans and activities of the Unit.
- e) He keeps the Provincial informed of the state of the Unit.
- f) He maintains timely communication with the Provincial Delegate and keeps him informed about the situation of the Unit.
- g) He ensures that the Unit faithfully adheres to the statutes, rules and regulations of the Organization and that everything is done in the Spirit of Don Bosco. If in the opinion of the Delegate, the unit is functioning in a manner contrary to the principles and spirit of Don Bosco, he may recommend to the Council of the Salesian Institution (House Council) the dissolution of the unit committee in order to hold fresh elections (see art.81c).
- h) As an animator and guide, he is present at all meetings and gatherings. Whenever he is unable to attend, he keeps himself informed of what takes place at the meetings.
- i) As a member of the Committee, he takes full part in all its deliberations, decisions and activities. His presence at meetings of the Provincial Federation Council is vital.
- j) He acts as a link between the alumni and the Salesian community.
- k) He is a compulsory signatory to all financial transactions of the Unit.

Art 92: The Unit President

- a) He represents the Unit in its dealings with the Salesian Congregation, the Provincial Committee, the religious and civil authorities and others.
- b) He convenes the Annual General Assembly, the Unit Committee meetings and all other meetings of the Unit. He prepares the agenda for these meetings and presides over them.
- c) He communicates to the members the decisions of the Provincial Council and sees to the execution of those decisions which have a bearing on the Unit.
- d) He keeps the Unit Delegate informed of how things are in the Unit and what happens in meetings which the Delegate is unable to attend.
- e) He ensures that the Unit is represented at all Provincial Council meetings and at other gatherings where the Unit is invited to participate.
- f) He ensures that all committee members carry out their duties diligently and in keeping with the regulations.
- g) After every major activity, he conducts an evaluation of it. Besides that, once in four months he makes an assessment of the overall performance of the unit (membership, finances, formation, deliberations carried out, etc).
- h) Whenever important functions are held at the unit level, the President shall extend invitations to the Provincial Federation Council and to the neighbouring units.

Art 93: The Unit Vice-President (Senior)

- a) He takes the place of the President in his absence.
- b) He is present at all Committee meetings and assists the President in his duties.

Art 94: The Unit Vice-President (GEX³)

- a) He shall not be more than 35 years at the time of his election.

³ GEX is the short form for the Italian expression *Giovani Exallievi*, meaning „Young Alumni“.

- b) He takes part in all Committee meetings. He takes care of the young alumni and is responsible for their recruitment and formation.

Art 95: The Unit Secretary

- a) He keeps up-to-date the list of the members and the list of all the alumni of the institution.
- b) He prepares and sends out notices for meetings of the Committee and of the AGA. c) He attends to the correspondence of the Unit.
- d) He draws up the minutes of the meetings of the Committee and of the AGA.
- e) He presents to the Provincial Council the Unit's Annual Report and Statement of Accounts.
- f) He prepares the chronicles and statistics of the Unit and collects the documentation, photos, etc. pertaining to the Unit.
- g) He looks after and preserves the archives of the Unit, taking special care to file all correspondence and to keep them up-to-date.
- h) He prepares and sends to the Provincial Secretariat the reports and documentation regarding the principal activities of the Unit.
- i) He keeps the President informed of all happenings in the Unit and ensures that no decision is made or any correspondence goes out of the office without the President's knowledge and consent.
- j) On the completion of his tenure, he hands over all files and documentation regarding the Unit to the incoming Secretary in the presence of the unit delegate.
- k) He hands over the balance sheet of the audited account to the provincial committee.

Art 96: The Unit Treasurer

- a) He prepares and keeps up-to-date the inventory of goods owned or used by the Unit.
- b) He receives subscriptions, donations and any other income and accounts for the same.
- c) He prepares the internally audited Statement of Accounts of the Unit and presents it at the AGA for approval.
- d) He maintains the registers and books of accounts and carries out the administrative acts of the Unit.
- e) He deposits the money of the Unit in a Bank account in the name of the Unit, which is to be operated by two signatories out of the three (Delegate, President, Treasurer). The Delegate should be the compulsory signatory.
- f) He passes on to the Provincial Federation the amount fixed as contribution to the Provincial Federation.
- g) On completion of his tenure, he hands over to the incoming treasurer all registers, books, cash and documents relating to finance in the presence of the delegate.

Art 97: Unit Councillors

The Councillors take part in the Committee meetings with full and equal rights as the other members. They may be assigned special tasks by the President. Co-opted councillors will not have the right to vote.

Art 98: Election Rules

- a) Elections are held once in four years.
- b) Units shall have their elections before the Provincial Federation election. The Provincial President notifies the Units about the election.
- c) The election of the members of the Unit Committee is the privilege of the registered members who have paid the subscription and are present at the General Assembly.
- d) Members registered less than six months before the election shall not have the right to vote,

but may be present at the meeting. Similarly, to stand for election, a member must have completed six months from the date of his/her enrolment, and must have paid the membership subscription to his unit.

- e) Whether a member qualifies to vote in or stand for an election is decided by the Electoral Commission (EC). The decision of the Commission in this regard is final and may not be questioned.
- f) Members desiring to stand for election shall submit their nominations in writing, using the prescribed format, endorsed by two registered members of the Unit, to the EC at least 20 days in advance of the date of election.
- g) The Annual General Assembly fixes the total number of members needed for the next committee. This is to be done at the Assembly preceding the one that will actually elect the Committee.
- h) Committee members are elected from a list of nominees, without assigning particular offices to any one of them. For being elected to the Committee, candidates need to obtain only a relative majority. However, the outgoing president will be an ex-officio member of the Committee with voting rights; he may be elected to any office, subject to the limitations imposed on him by art 101a.
- i) The Committee members elect the office bearers (i.e. President, Senior Vice-President, GEX Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Councillors) from among themselves, by separate voting for each post. To be elected, office bearers need to obtain absolute majority. In case of a deadlock after the first two ballots, the matter shall be decided by relative majority, in the third ballot.

Art 99: Electoral Commission (EC)

- a) The Electoral Commission consists of the Unit Delegate, the outgoing President, if he is not himself a candidate, and an independent person who is not in the Alumni Association. Where the outgoing President is himself a candidate for the election, the outgoing Unit Committee nominates another member in his place.
- b) The independent member is named by the outgoing Committee.
- c) The Outgoing President or the one nominated to take his place in the EC (as described in 99a, above) presides over the EC.
- d) The EC is the final authority on all matters related to elections.
- e) The EC has a right to reject a member's nomination if, in its opinion, a candidate is found to be unsuitable. The decision of the electoral commission in this regard will be final and shall not be questioned.
- f) The EC will ascertain whether the members filing nominations are registered, active, and enthusiastic and, if elected, will be available and willing to spare time and energy for the Unit in the true spirit of Don Bosco.
- g) The EC shall record and file all correspondence and minutes of the nomination and election of candidates.
- h) Before the election, the EC will once again brief the members about the procedures.

Art 100: Election Procedure

- a) After the National Committee election is announced, the Provincial President, with his Committee, fixes the deadline for the Provincial election, and asks the Units to get ready for elections in such a way that they are completed before the Provincial elections.⁴ Notice of election is given at least 45 days in advance by the unit president.
- b) The Unit Committee fixes the date (if not already done) for the Annual General Assembly which has the task of electing the new Committee, and constitutes the Electoral Commission (EC) as stipulated in Art. 99a, b & c of these Statutes.
- c) The Unit President informs all members about the election.
- d) The EC calls for nominations as stipulated in Art. 98f of the Statutes.
- e) After nominations have been received, the EC verifies if they are in order as per Art. 98d, 98f and 99f and prepares the ballot papers with the names of all the nominees.
- f) The voting is done by ticking the names of the candidates in the ballot paper. Only „x“ number of names shall be ticked, where „x“ is the total number of members required for the committee.
- g) The outcome is decided by relative majority as specified in Art. 98h. The EC declares the leading “x” number of candidates as elected to the Committee.
- h) The EC then signs off and hands over to the Delegate the files and documentation regarding the election.
- i) Thereafter, the members elected to the Committee meet with the Delegate to elect the office bearers (namely: President, Senior Vice-President, GEX Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Councillors) as per Art. 98i of the Statutes. The Delegate presides over this meeting with the right to vote.

Art 101: Duration of Office

- a) The Unit President holds office for a period of four years and may be re-elected to the same office for a second term consecutively, but not for a third consecutive term. He may, however, be re-elected to another office. Anyone who has been elected two terms as president shall not be eligible for that post again before the lapse of at least two terms. In exceptional cases, if it seems unavoidable, a written permission must be sought from the National Committee.
- b) The other members of the committee are also elected for a term of four years. They may, however, be re-elected to the same offices for consecutive terms, without limit.

Art. 102: Vacancies

When the office of a Committee member other than a councillor becomes vacant due to any reason, the Committee will appoint another committee member to that post who will hold the office only till the completion of the mandate of the member who has ceased to hold office.

Art 103: Incompatibility

The offices of the President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Committee are incompatible with offices of a public character carrying grave responsibilities of a political nature.

⁴ Here it must be kept in mind that since Annual General Assembly of a Unit is held only once a year and its date often fixed to coincide with public holidays like August 15, January 26, etc, Unit elections would have to be held, at times, even a year ahead of the Provincial elections. The

purpose of staggering the four levels of elections – from local unit to world level – is to give the newly elected office bearers the opportunity to take part in the elections at each higher level).

Art 104: Disciplinary Action

- a) If in the considered opinion of the Unit Committee, an alumnus/a is found guilty of serious unbecoming behaviour or any action that is gravely harmful to the Association, the Committee may decide, with a two-thirds majority vote, to take any suitable action against the member, including his/her removal from office or dismissal from the Association. The decision regarding the disciplinary action should be conveyed to the member in writing. Information regarding the disciplinary action taken should be forwarded to the Provincial and National Committees.
- b) If the Unit Committee fails to take action against an erring member referred to above, the Council of the Salesian Institution (House Council) to which the Unit belongs, may take whatever disciplinary action it may deem fit against the member, including his/her removal from office or dismissal from the Unit, and communicate its decision and the reasons for the decision to the Provincial and National committees.
- c) Any office bearer who does not attend three consecutive meetings without leave of absence shall cease to hold office. A decision in this regard shall be communicated to the member in writing, signed by the President and/or Secretary, and countersigned by the Delegate. Information regarding this action shall be forwarded to the Provincial and National Committees.
- d) A member who is removed from an office following a disciplinary action contemplated in the above paragraphs, shall not hold an office in the Provincial, National or World Federations till the completion of the term for which he/she was originally elected. A member dismissed from the association at any level shall not be reinstated without the approval of the National Committee.
- e) An appeal to the immediately superior body (Provincial Committee) against any of the decisions mentioned in the preceding paragraphs is allowed within 30 days of receipt of notice of the action.

Art 105: Young Alumni – GEX

- a) The unit members have, among their most important duties, in keeping with the specific mission of the Salesian Congregation, the care of youth. The care of the youth must be done, with proper adaptation, (i) for the young persons who are about to leave the institution, and (ii) for the young persons who have become alumni, by enhancing the value of their presence in the Association.
- b) Keeping in mind the special needs of the groups mentioned above, the Vice-president (GEX), with the collaboration of the Committee and the Council, shall organize suitable programmes for them from time to time.

Art 106: Secretariat of the Unit

The Unit has its office preferably in the Salesian institution where it has been formally established. The institution places at its disposal a place suitable for its meetings and organization.

Art 107: Newsletter of the Unit

The Unit is expected to publish a newsletter at least once in six months.

Art 108: Unit Banner

Every Unit shall have a banner of its own with the reproduction of the face of Don Bosco. It shall be exhibited on occasions of solemn celebrations and meetings. The Unit banner needs the approval of the Provincial Committee.

Art 109: Alumni Badge

The badge is the same for the entire world Confederation. Its use is optional but highly recommended because it is an external sign of unity among the past pupils. On the badge, around the figure of Don Bosco, are the words "Leads and Protects", indicating the role Don Bosco plays in the life of every past pupil. The badge is given to members at the time of joining the organization.

Art 110: Alumni Association's Motto

The motto of the Don Bosco Alumni Association shall be as given to us by our Father and Founder, Don Bosco: "KNOW, LOVE, HELP ONE ANOTHER AND KEEP UNITED"

Art 111: Identity Card

Each member shall obtain from the Unit, an identity card, recognized by the National Federation.

Art 112: Alumni "Groups"

By Group is meant an Association of alumni constituted in a place where there is no Salesian institution. The group, like the Unit, is an autonomous body with a Committee of its own. The forming of a Group must be recognized by the Provincial Federation Committee. The animation of the Group pertains to the Provincial Delegate.

Art. 113: Finances

The Unit is financially supported by the membership subscriptions, donations and money raised through various other means. Each unit has to contribute towards the support of the Provincial and National Federations.

Art 114: Authentic Text

The authentic text of the Statutes is the one approved by the Council of the National Federation.

Art 115: Relationship with the Salesian Congregation

- a) The members of the Association see in the Rector Major the image of Don Bosco and they accept him as their guide; they look to the Salesians for an ongoing clear-cut and adequate spiritual guidance. They share in the mission of the Salesian Congregation and pledge themselves to be signs and bearers of God's love to all, especially to the young and to the poor.
- b) The Unit acknowledges the Provincial and the Rector as the representatives of the Rector Major and the Salesian Congregation. They are, by right, members of the Committee but, as a rule, they exercise that responsibility through a Salesian appointed to act as their Delegate.

- c) The basic working principle of the Association is that all deliberations are made with the concurrence of the Salesians according to the family spirit of the educative community, which is characteristic of the Association.

Art. 116: Interpretation of Statutes

The day-to-day interpretation and application of these Statutes and Regulations is left to the Committee of the Provincial Federation. However, all controversy concerning their authentic interpretation and application will be resolved by the Council of the National Federation.

Art. 117: Amendments

Any amendment to these Statutes needs the approval of the Council of the National Federation with more than half the members voting in favour.

First approved by the National Council of Don Bosco Alumni-India during its meeting at Mannuthy on 7 November 2005. Further amendments approved by the National Council at Trichy 2007, Kohima in June 2008, Tura in November 2009, Goa in June 2011 and at New Delhi in October 2012.

Amendments:

1. *The outgoing President joins the Unit Executive Committee in the formation of the next Committee as the Immediate Past President as member with full voting rights.*
2. *Article 11 sub-section (f), should be read as 60% attendance.*
3. *Any Committee member if absent for two consecutive executive/ General body meetings without informing the President and without valid reasons may be asked to step down from the Committee.*
4. *Quorum is required in Executive committee meetings but no quorum is required in General body meetings, Annual General Meeting and Elections.*
5. *The Local Units with the consent and approval of the Provincial Council can go for registration under the Societies Act only, in their respective State. They can register as a "Society" under the Societies Registration Act and get their Permanent Account Number (PAN) from the Income Tax authorities. For all such registrations, the SDB Delegate is the compulsory signatory. The Society thus formed is governed by the Statutes of Don Bosco Alumni, Indian National Federation.*
6. *Article 19 sub-section (a) should be read as "Elections are held once in four years, unless otherwise directed by the National Council."*

sd/-
Rajiv Tikmany
National President

Sd/-
Fr. M.Noel, SDB
National Delegate