

## **Rules and Expectations - September 2012**

### **Introduction**

**Welcome to the Bronx Club of Vegas Valley (also known as "BCVV," the Bronx Club, or Club). First, we will provide a short history of the Club, then an overview of how we work, and finally a list of FAQ's (frequently asked questions).**

### **Club History**

**The Club began at a formative meeting in late 2009 at a founder's home. Attendees were initially invited from an old membership list of a previous Bronx Club that had ceased to function. Two people at the meeting volunteered to become "co-chairs" of the Club.**

**Four crucial decisions came out of that formative meeting:**

- (1) Meetings (events) will be monthly (if possible),**
- (2) Members are to take turns hosting events,**
- (3) There are no dues, and**
- (4) Email is to be the primary method for communicating with the membership. Phone is a secondary method. (No dues means no funds for postage and printing).**

**We held our first official meeting at the Rampart Resort in Summerlin in FEBRUARY 2010. After a membership surge immediately after formation, the Club's growth slowed to a more sustainable pace. One founding co-chair has since left and has been replaced by an original founder who had stepped down. The Club's roster now includes about 70 members and growing.**

### **How We Work -an Overview**

**We usually meet once a month, which is a demanding pace. We have been able to sustain this pace thanks to our host volunteers who chair these events.**

**There is an informal BCVV Ladies Club, which functions semi-independently.**

**Our co-chairs are dedicated volunteers who administer the Club's activities. They do most of the detailed event planning, including helping out monthly volunteers with their chosen activity. This keeps the Club going. As we grow, it is conceivable that we will evolve into a formal structure that will**

***include by-laws and elected officers instead of the two co-chairs we have now.***

***Among other behind the scenes Club responsibilities is a Club newsletter, written and published by a co-chair (a popular extra), maintenance of the Club's website (a newer extra), creation of invitation fliers, emailing event invitations, phoning members without email to notify them of events, and handling membership issues. There are now two co-chairs: Leslie Schoenberg (newsletter editor) and Susan Braun (founding member who also helps maintain the Club's website).***

***There are no Club dues. Sometimes the co-chairs need to pay some expenses from their own pockets.***

***Able members are called upon to volunteer to host an event once every two years. We need your help, so get involved!***

## ***Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)***

### ***1 -Membership***

#### ***Who can join?***

***Any adult who has lived in "The Bronx" and now lives in Southern Nevada (the "Las Vegas Valley"), and that person's spouse or significant other, may join this Club. If you qualify, [contact a co-chair](#).***

#### ***When does my membership expire?***

***It normally does not unless you notify us that you resign. Co-chairs regulate membership. Continuing membership is conditioned upon good demeanor, acceptable social behavior, adherence to our rules, and ongoing participation in Club activities.***

#### ***How does the Club use my contact information?***

***The Club sends you event notices, fliers, and newsletters, responds to your comments or questions, and sends information of general interest to members. Your information is personal and private. It is never sold. Only co-chairs have access to the membership list.***

#### ***How do I get Club information?***

***We use both email and our website. Sometimes we will phone you, for***

***example, if there is a last minute change of plans. If your response is needed, we will tell you how to respond.***

### **How do we identify members at events?**

***We use name badges. When you join, a permanent BCVV name badge is created for you. You pick up your badge when you arrive at an event, wear it prominently during the event, and return it to the host when you leave.***

### **2-Hosting**

#### **What does an event host do?**

***Event hosts plan and execute events. Co-chairs approve event plans, add them to the Club schedule and send invitations to the membership. At events, hosts welcome members (oversee sign-in and badging), collect event fees, supervise seating, solve venue service or quality problems, escort and introduce invited entertainers or speakers, and collect each member's badge upon leaving.***

#### **Why should I host?**

***Events do not just happen. Someone needs to plan and execute them. We have no paid staff to do this every month. We need volunteers. That is why we ask you to host an event every other year, or more frequently if you can.***

#### **How do I become a host?**

***Contact a [co-chair](#) to find out what months are available and discuss plans.***

#### **When are events held?**

***Usually the third Sunday of the month, late in the afternoon or early evening. It is not written in stone. Co-chairs coordinate events and need to OK plans. Sometimes we meet other times because of holidays or venue availability.***

#### **Can I host an event jointly with other members?**

***Yes. In fact, we encourage you to co-host by teaming up with friends so that the work can be shared. For example, two couples can work together.***

#### **How do members contact me about attending my event?**

***A host must provide a point-of-contact email address and phone number for RSVP replies and questions. The email address will be masked by a***

***"stealth" link that is actually published in the invitation fliers. A co-chair will phone members who do not have email access to invite them to the event. Those members are given the host's phone number to use for responding.***

***I'm busy and can't host. Will I get kicked out?***

***If you have special issues that make it a hardship for you to host, please let a co-chair know about your situation. Otherwise, we expect you to host or co-host an event every other year. We believe this is a reasonable request. You attend events hosted by others who do their part, so it is not fair to others if you do not do your part. You can co-host as part of a team if you do not have enough time. A co-chair can help you find teams that would like to have your help. If you continue to ignore opportunities to host, you may stop getting event invitations at the discretion of the co-chairs. Please do your part to keep our Club successful by becoming an event host.***

***What about guest speakers and entertainers?***

***A guest speaker or entertainer adds a lot of value to an event. The venue needs a reasonably private area where Club activities and other venue patrons will not impose on each other. Some things are not permitted. Your guest should not sell products or services at an event, or proselytize members for religious or political purposes. As a host, you are personally responsible for any financial agreements, if any, between you and your guest. It is customary to pay for an invited guest's meal. At times, the guest may bring a companion along, and you need to agree in advance, who pays for the companion's meal. You can collect a fee per head at the door to defray expenses if the charges are clearly stated in your invitation. The Club is not responsible if you do not collect enough to cover your expenses. If you come out ahead, any extra funds goes into the Club treasury to defray operating expenses. It will be added to a small "piggy bank" that helps fund special events (e.g., goodies for the Holiday Party) and operating costs.***

***The venue wants a deposit and a guaranteed minimum attendance. They won't do separate checks. What can I do?***

***Find another venue that will work with you. If you are not comfortable with the arrangements, walk away. Under no circumstances is any host authorized to act for the Club or bind the Club to any contract. Any arrangements you make with the venue management or guest speaker/entertainer is a private arrangement between you and them.***

### **3 -Events**

#### **If I don't want to attend an event do I still need to RSVP?**

**Yes! Always RSVP by the deadline WHETHER OR NOT you plan to attend! If you say you will go, try to do so. Sometimes unexpected things happen and you cannot come after all. You are expected to email or call the host to cancel ASAP. On the other hand, if you come to an event without responding, your name will not be on the invitation list, and there may not be any available seats left for you after all the members who have RSVP'd have been seated. What happens is left entirely to the discretion of the event host.**

#### **Can I bring personal guests?**

**To be fair to all members, events are for members only. However, with the host's consent you may bring certain non-members. These include adults visiting you from out of the Southern Nevada area, house guests, or a caregiver. Please do not bring friends or family who live in the Southern Nevada area, or young children (under age six). A prospective member (someone with a Bronx connection) can attend an event with permission of a co-chair. You must escort your guests at all times, and you are fully responsible for them.**

#### **How do I respond if the event host doesn't have email?**

**You will be given instructions about how to RSVP by phone in the invitation. Please be aware that there are members who have a house phone, but no cell phone. You may not be able to contact them on the day of an event. Plan accordingly.**

#### **My friend is a member, but has no computer or Internet connection. How can she get Club information?**

**We regret that we have no budget for printing and mailing documents. We will attempt to phone them with information about the next event. Regrettably, they will not receive the multi-page Newsletter. If you are willing to help, print out hard copies of invitations and the Newsletter for them. If you are such a person, link up with someone in the Club who can keep you informed about Club activities and is willing to print out invitations and the Newsletter for you.**

**Sue Braun, Co-chair**

**Leslie Schoenberg, Co-chair**