

# Council of Veterans

At the semi-annual AGM held last February, the proposal to establish an advisory board was rectified. This body will be named Council of Veterans (CoV or RvO in Dutch). Below is the final proposal.

## Definitions

<b>CoV</b> (Council of Veterans)	Advisory/supervisory body that is mainly focused on the board.
<b>CA</b> (Confidential Advisor)	Oversees the mental well-being of the association's members.
<b>GMA</b> (General Members' Assembly)	The voting members of the association.
<b>gma</b> (not capitalised)	A meeting of the GMA (and any others).
<b>LPR</b>	Klassieke Dansgroep Les Précieuses Ridicules
<b>Secret ballot</b>	Voting by ballot paper - this is anonymous.
<b>Absolute majority of votes</b>	51% of all votes <i>cast</i> . Blank votes and abstentions count towards the total but not towards the result.
<b>Qualitative majority of votes among all voting members</b>	A specified percentage of all <i>possible</i> votes, including all absentee votes. Blank votes, abstentions and absent votes count towards the total but not towards the result.

## Article 1      Composition

- 1.1. The CoV consists of two to five experienced ex-position holders and/or (semi-)professionals. They will be known as Veteran(s).
- 1.2. The members of the CoV will preferably be former board members of LPR who have proven themselves competent. Exceptionally, people from outside the association can also be allowed into the CoV.
- 1.3. Preferably, the Veterans are collected from different positions and specialties to make the diversity and expertise of the Council as broad as possible.

## Article 2      The role of the CoV

- 2.1. The role of the Council of Veterans is primarily advisory. The CoV is at the disposal of both the board and the candidate board to answer questions and provide them with advice on various matters if they so wish. In this way, the CoV shares responsibility for transferring managerial knowledge within the association, although the primary responsibility in this respect remains with the incumbent board.
- 2.2. The secondary role of the Council of Veterans is supervisory. The CoV ensures that the board always acts in accordance with the association's by-laws, the House Regulations, the Code of Conduct and any other relevant documents and agreements, including this very document. The CoV also sporadically checks that the board correctly and adequately records its activities in the agreed upon manner to help ensure the continuity of the board and the association.

## Article 3      Duties and authority

- 3.1. The advisory tasks of the CoV include the following:
  - a.) Advising the (candidate) board when so requested. However, the (candidate) board is never obliged to comply with any or all advice given;
  - b.) Reading any budgets, policy plans and gma-related documents and providing them with notes and opinions. The board is obliged to forward such documents to the CoV no later than seven days before their intended date of issue;
  - c.) Holding a meeting with the board four times a year, always in the first month of each quarter;
  - d.) Other duties that fall within the advisory sphere but are not defined within this document.
- 3.2. The CoV has the right to request unannounced temporary access to all locations where the board records its correspondence and documentation, both physically and digitally. The board is obliged to provide it, taking into account the following:
  - a.) This right may, in the case of a general review, be exercised no more than four times a year and serves purely as a general check on compliance with any recording and archiving duties that the board has. It is not meant as a check on the contents of individual documents;
  - b.) Any additional reviews may only be conducted if the CoV suspects gross negligence, crimes or other matters of a serious nature and can sufficiently substantiate this suspicion;
  - c.) Such access is granted for a maximum of five days and may be revoked immediately once the CoV declares its review complete;
  - d.) Both the CoV and the board will never be allowed access to correspondence and/or documentation of a confidential advisor.
- 3.3. The CoV has a permanent right to directly and unconditionally access the minutes of all board meetings and gma's to keep abreast of current developments within the association. However, this does not entitle the CoV to give unsolicited advice on any plans or matters, except where they conflict with the association's by-laws, the House Regulations, the Code of Conduct and any other relevant documents and agreements, including this very document.
- 3.4. If the CoV observes gross negligence, crimes or other matters of a serious nature within the association, it has the unilateral right to convene the GMA, even if the minimum number of applicants as referred to in Article 11.2. of the association's by-laws is not met.
- 3.5. The CoV is entitled to give its opinion on board candidates and to advise the board on the composition of the (candidate) board. In addition, the CoV may offer its assistance with training the candidate board after the latter has been approved by the GMA.
- 3.6. Whenever the association's by-laws, the House Regulations, the Code of Conduct and any other documents of a legal nature are rewritten, the CoV will take part during this process. They will, however, always consult with the board. If necessary, the choice may be made to set up a temporary committee to support the CoV and the board in this rewriting process. Proposals for new versions are always submitted to the General Members' Assembly for approval.

#### **Article 4 Appointment and succession**

- 4.1. Only those members who take office at the time of the initial establishment of the CoV shall be nominated by the incumbent board at a general members' assembly. The GMA vote on these candidates by secret ballot. With an absolute majority of votes, they are appointed as the first Veterans of the newly established CoV.
  - 4.1.1. After the CoV is successfully established, all subsequent Veterans will be elected in accordance with Article 4.2. and onwards.
- 4.2. The incumbent Veterans will select their new peers and successors themselves. When doing so, they should ensure the diversity and expertise of the Council as a whole. Whenever a new person takes a seat on the CoV, the CoV is obliged to share this with the GMA as soon as possible.
- 4.3. To avoid conflicts of interest, people in the following positions cannot serve on the CoV under any circumstances:
  - a.) Incumbent board member
  - b.) Confidential advisor (CA)
- 4.4. Board members completing their final (consecutive) term do **not** automatically join the CoV.

#### **Article 5 Term of office**

- 5.1. In principle, Veterans take office for a term of two years. An annual term is equated to the association's financial year.
  - 5.1.1. New Veterans take office during the annual change-GMA (*wissel-adv in Dutch*). Veterans who retire shall resign during the annual change-GMA.
- 5.2. After the initial two-year term, a Veteran's term may be extended so long as the rest of the incumbent CoV agrees to this.
  - 5.2.1. This extension is always for a term of one year and can be granted a maximum of three times by the incumbent CoV.
  - 5.2.2. It is for the CoV to decide in which manner such a term extension is agreed upon, but the chosen terms must be established before any review or vote takes place. The chosen terms must also be made known to the Veteran in question prior to this review/vote.
- 5.3. After a fifth consecutive annual term, a Veteran shall automatically resign.
  - 5.3.1. If the other incumbent CoV members wish to keep a Veteran in office after these five years, they may submit a request to the GMA to that effect. With an absolute majority of votes, the term of the Veteran in question will be extended by one annual term.

#### **Article 6 (Early) resignation, suspension and dismissal**

- 6.1. If a Veteran wishes to resign before the end of an annual term, the CoV may not fall below the minimum number of members as a result. Should this be the case, a replacement must first be appointed before the Veteran in question may resign. Whenever a Veteran retires early, the CoV is obliged to share this with the GMA as soon as possible.

- 6.2. When a Veteran terminates their LPR membership (themselves) before their current term of office expires, this does **not** automatically terminate the term of office of the Veteran in question.
- 6.3. If a Veteran's membership is terminated in accordance with Article 6.3. of the association's by-laws on behalf of the association and/or if a Veteran is expelled from membership in accordance with Article 6.4. of the association's by-laws, this **does** automatically terminate the current term of office of the Veteran in question and the Veteran is immediately dismissed from the CoV.
- 6.4. If the GMA are highly dissatisfied with the performance of a Veteran, it is entitled to hold a general members' assembly to discuss this issue. In addition, the GMA may put a suspension or dismissal of the Veteran in question to a vote at this meeting if they deem this necessary. The taking of such a measure must be approved by a (qualitative) majority of at least two-thirds of votes among all voting members.
  - 6.4.1. If the first vote is tied, a second vote must be held within four weeks of the first vote. In this second vote, a measure is approved by a (qualitative) majority of at least two-thirds of the votes cast.
  - 6.4.2. The convening of the General Members' Assembly shall be in accordance with Article 11 of the by-laws.
  - 6.4.3. If a Veteran is suspended for a period of time not exceeding three months and this results in the CoV's numbers temporarily falling below the minimum number of members, the CoV is **not** obliged to replenish its numbers. However, if the suspension lasts longer than three months, the CoV **is** obliged to (temporarily) replenish its numbers. The resulting appointment of (an) additional Veteran(s) may:
    - a.) Be of a temporary nature, whereby it expires simultaneously with the suspension in in question; OR
    - b.) Be entered into for only the remainder of the current term of office instead of the standard term referred to in Article 5.1. of this document, as long as the maximum number of members is not exceeded once the suspension in question expires.If the broken term of office resulting from such an appointment does not exceed six months for the newly appointed Veteran, it shall not count towards their maximum term of office as referred to in Article 5.3. of this document. A longer appointment is counted as one annual term.
  - 6.4.4. If the dismissal of a Veteran results in the CoV's numbers falling below the minimum number of members, the resignation shall take place on the agreed upon date and the CoV shall always be obliged to replenish its numbers as soon as possible. In this case, the resulting appointment of (an) additional Veteran(s) shall be for the remainder of the current term of office only instead of the standard term referred to in Article 5.1. of this document.
  - 6.4.5. If the dismissal of (a) Veteran(s) results in no-one remaining on the CoV, the GMA are obliged to propose and agree upon new candidates within three calendar months.

- 6.4.6. After a vote on a suspension or dismissal of a Veteran has produced a valid result, no further vote on a suspension or dismissal of the same Veteran may be taken within the three calendar months following that result.
- 6.4.6.1. If the Veteran in question loses their LPR membership in the manner(s) referred to in Article 6.3. of this document, they shall still be dismissed from the CoV with immediate effect, even if the period of three calendar months mentioned above has not yet fully elapsed.

*This document was last updated on 19-06-2024.*