

**STATUTES OF THE WORLD CONFEDERATION
OF THE PAST PUPILS OF DON BOSCO**

Text approved “*ad experimentum*”

Rome, 24 June 2011



World Confederation of Past Pupils of Don Bosco

Non-trade Edition

Presentation

Rome, 24 June 2011

My Dear Past Pupils,

I am writing to you on the Solemnity of Saint John the Baptist. On this day the name day of Don Bosco used to be celebrated and it was an occasion very dear to the first Past Pupils, who on a day such as this for the first time went to Valdocco to express their affection, esteem and gratitude to the one they considered their dear “father, brother and friend”. These Past Pupils brought a symbolic gift, which was meant to signify the offering of their hearts to Don Bosco. He was extremely moved. Certainly he recognised that gesture as a sign of gratitude for his work as an educator. It was a simple and familiar occasion, then, which informally gave birth to the great movement of the Past Pupils of Don Bosco.

The founding of the Association as such was the work of Fr Philip Rinaldi, who gave it a juridical structure in 1911. Now, in the context of the centenary of this foundation, I myself have the pleasure to introduce the new Statutes of the World Confederation of 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 organisation 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.

The Statutes are the result of a long process involving the efforts of the entire World Confederation, which concluded with the Fourth World Assembly elections held in Rome from 30 September to 3 October 2010, involving the study and approval “ad experimentum” of the document. With the renewal of the Statutes a new spring begins, one which will bring an abundant flourishing of the identity and mission of the Past Pupils within the Salesian Family, in the Church and in the world.

There is a plurality of origin among the Past Pupils which needs to be brought out. The Association and the Confederation declare their membership of the Church, but there are members, fully so and by right, of different Christian denominations, at different levels as regards the acceptance and practice of their faith, and members of other faith communities as well. It is Don Bosco himself, with his educational system and his mission, who gives unity to 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 ask you to take to heart the defence 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 specifically 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 calls you once again to be “good Christians and upright citizens,” 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 continuing formation, and an effective group for their social involvement.

I would like to tell you all 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 local Unions are strengthened in number and quality. Then we have a 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 the local area.

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 Pupil along with it, to influence the world, transforming it and making it more human.

Dear Past Pupils, I give you the Statutes as a most valuable gift, and invite you to study them and put them 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 Pascual Chávez Villanueva,
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 past children, everyone praises this meeting of ours, because it is a true means to remember the warnings and advice I used to give you when you were youngsters. Yes, let me repeat it, this gives me my greatest consolation; it is the honour and glory of my last years.

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

Continue along the straight and narrow 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 glory that the youths once so dearly loved by him, now full 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 (MB 17,173-174).

Preface

We know how much Don Bosco loved his pupils: Once they finished their educational curriculum he followed them, invited them, welcomed them, guided them still, he admonished them when necessary, he worried about their wellbeing, above all spiritual ...

“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 upright men ... 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 fecundity of education in the Oratory”⁴.

In answer to the deep love of Don Bosco, on the 24th June 1870, on 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 well-liked and generous Carlo Gastini, who always considered the Oratory to be his second family; they committed to finding a greater number of members; then they appointed a commission to better organise, for the future, the annual exhibitions of affection and gratitude”⁵.

Amongst the many initiatives achieved in direct contact with Don Bosco, for the benefit of the old boys, 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 difficulties: 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 organisation 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 divided up into local groups, into unions and societies, right up to the true 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”; from that date on they were called “Past Pupils”⁸. The creator and promoter of this organisation was Don Rinaldi. “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”⁹.

² MB 17, p. 173-4.

³ MB 14, p. 511.

⁴ LRM p. 9.

⁵ LRM p. 6-7.

⁶ MB 13, p. 759.

⁷ LRM p. 7.

⁸ LRM p. 10.

⁹ LRM p. 10; E. Cernia, “Life of God's Servant Fr. Filippo Rinaldi” SEI p. 252.

Arturo Poesio, an old chairman of the Confederation, writes: "The eloquence of Don Rinaldi was simple, spontaneous, paternal and convincing. Only once did he assume an aspect and language of authority declaring, in his capacity as Rector Major of the Salesian Society, that the organisation of the Past Pupils must be considered to be included in those "*novas familias*" that have flourished in the Holy Church thanks to Don Bosco, which are alluded to in the Saint's own *Oremus*"¹⁰.

Starting with the organisational activity begun by Don Bosco and completed by Don Rinaldi, the association of the Past Pupils has been expanding ever more in all Salesian works gaining structured and coordinated structures. The various events held over the decades bear witness to this. The Past Pupils have always shown themselves to be affectionate sons and daughters and with an ever greater commitment to operate in society. The various Superior Generals who have held office have brought their own contribution to the animation and leadership of the Past Pupils and, with them, many Salesians as well. Amongst them we cannot forget the names of Don Luigi Ricceri, Don Umberto Bastasi and Don Giovanni Raineri. Don Egidio Viganò wrote an important and stimulating letter to the Salesians, about the animation and leadership of the Past Pupils by the Salesians of Don Bosco, which will always be a fundamental document for the Past Pupils themselves. Don E. Vecchi offered the Confederation a rich contribution in the "VIII National Congress of the Past Pupils of Don Bosco of Italy. Renew yourself to renew", at Rimini, from the 10th to the 13th October 1996 and in other different speeches. Of late don Pascual Chávez in 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 Salesians' general chapter 22 defines how the Old Pupils belong to the Salesian Family and sanctions it in article 5 of the Constitutions. It gives their "received education" as the reason for their belonging: this education actually causes to be born in them different levels of participation in the Salesian mission in the world ... " The Past Pupils are, in themselves, particularly [well] prepared, thanks to the education they received, to assume responsibilities of collaboration based on the aims of the Salesian project. The evangelising choice made by many of them is not an alternative to the educational qualification 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"¹¹.

The intention of living this "received education" caused various local centres to appear which grouped into provincial and national federations. These together constitute the World Confederation which is the structured group through which the sense of belonging to the Salesian Family is expressed.

¹⁰ "Congregation for the Causes of saints, Positio, Rome 1972, p. 28.

¹¹ "Guide to reading the comments to the Salesian Constitutions" pag.115

Chapter I

Identity and Mission of the Past Pupils of Don Bosco

Art. 1. Identity

- a) Past Pupils of Don Bosco are persons who, because they attended an oratory, a school or any other Salesian setting, received a preparation for life, in differing degrees and with differing methods according to culture, religion, the educational quality of the setting, the capacity of reception of the individuals¹², based on the principles of Don Bosco's Preventive System¹³: form persons by developing the authenticity of each one of them.
- b) We can identify four types of membership of the Past Pupils of Don Bosco, which can help to define their identity:
 - ✓ Those for whom having been students or having attended a Salesian setting is **a fact of life**, an anecdote, which has not touched their lives;
 - ✓ Those for whom having been students or having attended a Salesian setting is **a grace**, because they have been touched by the appeal and attraction of Don Bosco, profoundly man and profoundly saint; this leads the Past Pupil to identify him/herself as a Past Pupil of Don Bosco wherever they go;
 - ✓ Those for whom having been students or having attended a Salesian setting is **a choice, a mission**, which they accept with all that it entails. They feel called to communicate the values received in their Salesian education: the spirit and teaching method of Don Bosco;
 - ✓ Those for whom having been students or having attended a Salesian setting is **a life project**, which will push them to associate with one another to continue their personal formation, to make the educational charisma of Don Bosco present in society, and to achieve specific projects in favour of youth¹⁴.
- c) This education has created bonds of filial loyalty, of gratitude, of testimony of the values of Don Bosco's system, of abilities for service and communion or participation in the family spirit.
- d) Gratitude leads Past Pupils to participate, at differing levels and to differing degrees, in the Salesian mission in the world, assuming, according to their status, responsibilities of collaboration and complement to the Salesian educational project.
- e) The World Confederation of the Past Pupils of Don Bosco, herein after also referred to as the Association, is a not-for-profit Lay Association. As such it is part of the Salesian Family, in which the Rector Major – successor of Don Bosco – is father and centre of unity.

Art. 2 Mission

- a) The Christian Past Pupil seriously lives the promises of his/her Baptism and Confirmation characterising them with the original charisma of Don Bosco. This charisma is achieved in an apostolically committed life style based on Reason, Religion and Loving-Kindness, targeted at Youth and in keeping with the Joy that ensues from being a disciple of Christ.
- b) The Association of Past Pupils participates in the mission of Don Bosco and the Salesian Family in various ways:

¹² E. Viganò, *Gli Exallievi di Don Bosco*, in: "Acts of the General Council" LXVIII (1987) 321, p. 18.

¹³ Article 1b of the Statutes issued on the 31st January 1990.

¹⁴ 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 taking care of the "permanent formation" of its members,
 - ✓ by valorising and looking after the family,
 - ✓ by undertaking the education of youth with commitment,
 - ✓ "by advancing the values within the human person and respect for the dignity of man"¹⁵
 - ✓ by increasing active communion with all the Salesian Family,
 - ✓ by looking after pupils at the end of their educational curriculum¹⁶
 - ✓ by promoting activities at the service of man involving anyone who, being nobly focussed and animated by good will, operates for the global and supportive growth of the human person and the family in the way of the Church's Social Doctrine,
 - ✓ by teaching an updated ecumenical sensibility amongst Christians and an openness to dialogue with other religions without ever forgetting to examine their own Christian identity and evangelising mission closely and to challenge every form of ethical relativism.
- a) 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 dispenser of these goods in his/her life and work settings, and also supports them with whatever his/her own religion and culture suggest.
- b) All Past Pupils, considering the urgency of the problems of young people, operate concretely to answer, including personally, to the educative requirements and all those cultural and formative initiatives that interest young people helping them in their growth and to take on responsibilities at all levels.

¹⁵ 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.

¹⁶ E. Viganò, *op. cit.*, pp. 29-35.

Chapter II

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

Art. 3. General Aim

- a) The general aim of the Association is to take values greatly to heart and defend them at all costs with social, political and economic commitment. In particular:
- ✓ **life:** it is sacred, from birth until death. We have to help young people find the meaning of life and commit to looking after quality of life, especially that of the poorest and most needy;
 - ✓ **freedom:** especially when young people, although appearing democratic, seem to act more and more self-sufficiently, endangering the freedom and common commitment to build a better world where freedom is guaranteed for one and all;
 - ✓ **truth:** not only the scientific, but also the emotional and spiritual truth, especially when witnessing the passage from a healthy pluralism to relativism, to finally burgeon into nihilism, which leads to the loss of any reference picture and the breakdown of society¹⁷.
- b) The Christian Past Pupil seriously lives the bonds of baptism and Confirmation, accentuating the typical spirituality of Don Bosco expressed in an apostolically committed lifestyle as a result of being a disciple of the Christ. To this end:
- ✓ He/she will promote activities at the service of man involving anyone who, being nobly focussed and animated by good will, operates for the global growth of the human person and respect for the family;
 - ✓ He/she will encourage an up-to-date ecumenical sensibility amongst Christians and openness to dialogue with other religions.
- 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 common heritage of the human family. He/she becomes a dispenser of these goods in his/her life and work settings, and also supports them with whatever his/her own religion and culture suggest¹⁸.
- d) Moreover, a Past Pupil of Don Bosco, be they Christian or of another religion, is called on to express and develop the seeds of his/her “received education”, that is:
1. To carry out the mission with:
 - ✓ **Professional competence:** to be able to speak authoritatively in any field of life (politics, economy, art...) one has to be competent, so as to become an authentic riser in society.
 - ✓ **Moral conscience:** that is to say with human qualities, enriched by values which allow the actual person to know how to discern and choose with responsibility, but also to steer others or become a point of reference for them.
 - ✓ **Social commitment:** to work, not thinking only of personal success, but rather of the common good, committed to building a better world because this is possible and therefore he/she is responsible for it.
 2. To plan formation and educational experiences;
 3. To make his/her received education alive and present, as the Preventive System indicates, a precious inheritance and rich synthesis of contents and methods to be promoted in full;

¹⁷ P. Chávez, Goodnight speech during the IV World Election Assembly 2010.

¹⁸ Article 2 of the Statutes issued on the 31st January 1990.

4. Promote human dignity, respect for life and a more just society; spiritual life and access to church life as a sacrament; a culture of responsible work, as a means of sanctification.

Art. 4. Educational promotion

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

- a) Contribute to the creation of a more just society becoming involved in cultural, moral, spiritual and religious processes which propose a solution to problems concerning youth and the common people.
- b) Plan experiences of permanent formation for Past Pupils, designed to favour their further personal enrichment and update the received education, so they are able to face the requirements of current times.
- c) Reserve particular occasions of contact and meeting for Past Pupils to stimulate and encourage them towards creativity, fraternity, dynamism and taking up responsibilities in the various contexts of life.
- d) Be present as experts in the spheres in which the educative policies of the young are developed.

Art. 5 Family commitment

The association promotes and bears witness to the values and the 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 in other faiths, the preventive educational method, and respect of the capabilities, natural inclinations and aspirations of children.

Art. 6. Service to vocations and specific secular tasks

The Association accompanies young people in their scholastic-professional choices, their inclusion in the world of work and culture, their socio-political preparation, the acquisition of specific competencies in social communication, a healthy use of free time, their response to the Vocation received. It looks after these sectors with particular interventions.

In particular, the Association also takes care of Vocations for the other groups in the Salesian Family.

Art. 7. Volunteer movement

The Association of the Past Pupils of Don Bosco encourages – especially amongst its younger members – participation in the various activities of the Salesian volunteer movement and is preoccupied with stimulating personal commitment in the missionary apostolate.

Art. 8. Attention towards young people

- a) The Association looks after young people right from the first time they begin to attend a Salesian setting, making known the existence of the Association and the advantages of being young members, setting up projects and programmes that are suited to them.
- b) The Association comes into contact with the young people registered in the centres and other Salesian settings because, by acknowledging the spiritual bond with their educators and teachers, they are the first recipients of the Association's action of help, recovery and involvement.
- c) The Local Association looks for young people in the various Salesian presences, explaining the meaning, the aims, the identity and the mission of the movement of the Past Pupils of Don Bosco to them and it encourages them to participate in the development and promotion of the ideals of Don Bosco.

Art. 9. The Salesian Family

- a) The Association increases active communion with the other groups of the Salesian Family by participating in the creation and operating of structures that facilitate reciprocal reception, dialogue, work collaboration and interaction of the different groups.
- b) The Association studies and plans agreements and activities 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, which share an identical and precious heritage.
- c) The Association is a point of reference and aggregation for anyone who “for any reason” feels bound to the Salesian work, shares its objectives and constitutes the vast movement of sympathisers, including “**the Friends of Don Bosco**”, who for a long time have worked, and still do work, in society.

Chapter III

Relations with the Salesians of Don Bosco

Art. 10 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 the 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 Vicar of the Rector Major and the Confederal Delegate.
- c) At Province level the Provincials and the Directors of Salesian houses are involved, likewise assisted by their respective Delegates in the National or Provincial Federations and in the Associations, Unions and Local Groups.
- d) A Delegate at any level carries out his role in the name of his superior. Same participates in the planning and coordination of the Movement's educational activities. Same is present, at all levels, on the directive and executive Boards.

Art. 11. 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 favouring permanent spiritual formation.
- b) This commitment is achieved by keeping in mind the concept of laicity expressed by Vatican Council II, by subsequent church Documents, by the rules about Lay Associations of the Code of Canon Law, and by the Constitutions of the Salesian Congregation with the relevant Regulations and the provisions included in Salesian directives (General Chapters, Acts of the General Council and other documents).
- c) This animation also involves Priest Past Pupils and Religious Past Pupils (men and women).

Art. 12. Autonomy in communion

- a) The lay but not laicistic trait, the secular nature and the autonomous responsibility of the World Confederation, do not stand in the way of a continuous union with the **Salesian Society of Saint Francis of Sales** and the other groups of the Salesian Family, for reciprocal enrichment and greater operational fecundity of the Movement. The Salesian educative mission extends to and multiplies in the settings in which the Past Pupils of Don Bosco, who are its multipliers, operate.
- b) The concept of laicity is also extended to Past Pupils of other cultures and religions.

Chapter IV

Origin and development

Art. 13 Origin and development

- a) In remembering the appeal of Don Bosco the Past Pupils initially gathered, spontaneously and in a filial way thus giving life, with the first aggregative expressions, to a Movement.
- b) This associative organisation, inspired by Don Filippo Rinaldi and perfected over the years, is currently split into Local Unions or Associations, Provincial Federations, National Federations and recognised Groups. These together make up the “**World Confederation of the Past Pupils of Don Bosco**”, which is the recognised structure through which a Past Pupil of Don Bosco is allowed to genuinely belong to the Salesian Family.
- c) The World Confederation of the Past Pupils is a unique organisation, without ethnic and religious distinctions. As a lay association it has juridical personality and representativeness, which is recognised, where possible, 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 Statutes and relevant national regulations.

Chapter V

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

Art. 14. Organisation of the Association

The Association is composed of:

- a) Associations and Local Unions.

These may be composed of:

- ✓ Past Pupils of Don Bosco grouped around a Salesian presence.
- ✓ Past Pupils of Don Bosco rallied together, who in their country are too far from their original Salesian house and show a desire to meet together.
- ✓ Past Pupils of Don Bosco who have immigrated from other nations or regions and show a desire to meet together.

- b) Provincial Federation.

This is composed of all the Associations and Local Unions within a Salesian Province.

- c) National Federation.

This is composed of all the Provincial Federations existing within a nation.

- d) World Confederation.

This is composed of all the National Federations of each nation and of the Provincial Federations of the countries where a National Federation does not exist. In any case if more than one Provincial Federation exists, the formation of a National Federation is to be encouraged.

Art. 15. Composition – Bodies

The organising bodies 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 Federal Statutes.

The organising bodies of the National Federation are:

- a) National General Meeting.
- b) National Presidency, with representatives from all the existing Provincial Federations.
- c) National Executive Council.

The organising bodies of a Provincial Federation are:

- a) Provincial General Meeting
- b) Provincial Presidency, with representatives from all the existing Local Associations
- c) Provincial Executive Council

The organising bodies of the Local Associations are:

- a) General Meeting of the course/class representatives.
- b) Local Presidency.
- c) Executive Council of the Local Association.

If there are 3 Local Associations, then 1 Provincial or National Federation can be created. If there are 2 Provincial Federations, then 1 National Federation can be created. The Confederal Presidency can grant exceptions. To start a Local Association the minimum requirement is that a large group of Past Pupils expresses a desire to unite together.

Art. 16. Organisation of the World Confederation

- a) The **General World Assembly** is the highest body of the Confederation of the Past Pupils of Don Bosco.

It is composed of:

- ✓ The Confederal Presidency.
- ✓ The Presidents of the National Federations.
- ✓ The Presidents of the Provincial Federations, wherever a National Federation does not exist in the country or there is only 1 Provincial Federation.

- b) The **Confederal Presidency** is composed of:

- ✓ The Confederal President.
- ✓ The Vicar Confederal Vice President.
- ✓ The GEX Confederal Vice President (elected amongst 4 GEX Councillors, 1 per Region¹⁹)
- ✓ 4 adult and 4 GEX Regional Councillors (of which 1 is elected GEX Confederal Vice President).
- ✓ 1 for the Region Europe.
- ✓ For the Region America composed of Latin America, North America and Central America, for the Region Asia-Oceania-Australia.
- ✓ 1 for the Region Africa.
- ✓ The Vicar of the Rector Major.
- ✓ The Confederal Delegate.
- ✓ The Secretary General.
- ✓ The Confederal Treasurer.
- ✓ The representative of the Priest Past Pupils.

- c) The **Confederal Executive Council** is composed of:

- ✓ The Confederal President.
- ✓ The GEX Confederal Vice President.
- ✓ An adult Regional Councillor (elected by simple majority by the Confederal Presidency amongst its elected 4 adult Regional Councillors).
- ✓ The Secretary General.
- ✓ The Confederal Treasurer.
- ✓ The Vicar of the Rector Major.
- ✓ The Confederal Delegate.

¹⁹ The 4 Regions are: Europe, America, Africa and Asia-Oceania-Australia.

d) Distribution of the regions' representation for elections in the World Assembly:

- ✓ Europe: 2 candidates, 1 adult and 1 GEX;
- ✓ Africa: 2 candidates, 1 adult and 1 GEX;
- ✓ Latin America: 2 candidates, 1 adult and 1 GEX;
- ✓ Asia: 2 candidates, 1 adult and 1 GEX.

e) Specialist-Consultants:

The Confederal Presidency of the World Confederation can co-opt one or more specialist-consultants up to a maximum of 3 members, in subjects in which a special skill is required, following appointments which must expressly indicate their skills 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.

f) Special Commissions:

The Confederal Presidency can likewise set up a Commission integrated by expert Past Pupils - up to a maximum of 3 persons - in the matters on the table for discussion, to whom a special authority will be given in a particular issue. The Confederal Presidency will fix in advance the tasks and duties of the Commission, the work and submission timeframes for proposals and recommendations, to be issued in a final report of the Confederal Presidency of the World Confederation.

Art. 17. 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 and contains the matters on the Agenda.

The conference activities are carried on pursuant to the terms of the Regulations approved in the Assembly.

b) Extraordinary General World Assembly

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

- ✓ To proceed to new elections in the event of the 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, if a National Federation does not exist in the country.
- ✓ In particularly serious circumstances, at the request of the Rector Major of the Salesian Congregation, who also has the right to fix special guidelines of procedure.

c) Meeting of the Confederal Presidency.

The meeting of the members of the Confederal Presidency takes place every year and is open to all Past Pupils of Don Bosco.

At the invitation of the Confederal Presidency, and with a motivated decision, one or more persons, up to a maximum of 3, can be invited to attend. The invited persons do not have 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 Presidency, and with a motivated decision, one or more persons, up to a maximum number of 3, can be invited to attend. The invited persons do not have voting rights.

Chapter VI

Tasks in the organising bodies

Art. 18. Tasks

a) The General World Assembly

- ✓ Determines the general guidelines of the Confederal Presidency for the achievement of the aims and objectives of the World Confederation.
- ✓ Approves the Report of the World President and the Secretary General.
- ✓ Approves the Confederal Statutes; examines, arranges and approves proposals for modifying and updating the Statutes.
- ✓ Elects the members of the Confederal Presidency.
- ✓ Approves the Financial Report by the Confederal Treasurer and exonerates him/her of responsibility for the audited period.
- ✓ Listens to and approves the Reports of the National and Provincial Federations.
- ✓ Approves any projects proposed by the Confederal Presidency.

b) The Confederal Presidency.

- ✓ Directs and clearly develops the activities of the World Confederation in accordance with the resolutions of the General World Assembly;
- ✓ Assigns specific tasks to Members of the Confederal Presidency;
- ✓ Follows up on contacts with international organisations;
- ✓ Organises Conventions or International Meetings and reunions, General Consultations and, when required, National or Provincial Consultations;
- ✓ Approves and accepts the annual financial report of the Confederal Treasurer;
- ✓ **Establishes** the annual amount to be contributed to the World Confederation by the National or Provincial Federations or by similar groups which hold a recognition by the World Confederation;
- ✓ Examines the reports submitted by the National or Provincial Federations;
- ✓ Authorises and organises the conferring of merit awards on Past Pupils and other deserving persons;
- ✓ Meets at least once a year (during the month of October);
- ✓ When necessary, draws the attention of the members of the Confederal Presidency to their statutory duties, when they do not fulfil them, and takes note thereof in the minutes of meetings;
- ✓ Appoints and forms any commissions that may be needed (electoral commission, financial commission, youth commission, editorial team, responsible for magazines and publications, ad hoc commission for specific issues);
- ✓ Co-opts consultants (specialists) for pre-defined purposes and with pre-defined terms (timeframe and tasks).

c) Confederal Executive Council

- ✓ Develops and implements the directives of the Confederal Presidency;
- ✓ Puts forward proposals to the Confederal Presidency;
- ✓ Approves the regulations of the National Federations and communicates its own opinion in the event of any controversy about the application of the Statutes;
- ✓ Approves the minutes of the meetings drawn up by the Secretary General and communicates them within 2 months to all members of the Presidency;
- ✓ Examines the final accounts put forward by the Confederal Treasurer;
- ✓ Meets, ordinarily, each quarter to review the progress and implementation of ongoing projects;

- ✓ Makes a list of the planned candidates to be proposed for election, and of the qualities and skills required of them (amongst which languages spoken, formation, available time, etc...);
- ✓ Can grant exemption, for one year and only for documented justified reasons, from the fixed annual contribution to the Federations or to recognised groups which have made a request for same.

Chapter VII

Duties and tasks of the Members of the Confederal Presidency

Art. 19 The Confederal President

The Confederal President

- a) Has the legal representation of the Confederation.
- b) Maintains relations with the superiors of the Congregation and the leaders of the groups in the Salesian Family, the Authorities, International bodies and third parties.
- c) Convenes the General Assembly, the Councils of groups of nations, the Confederal Presidency and the Executive Council, chairing them including **through** representatives.
- d) Calls World, Continental and International Conferences authorized by the General Assembly, chairing them directly or through representatives.
- e) Maintains links with all the National Federations and with the Representatives of the group Councils, participating in any executive meetings.
- f) Confers at his own initiative or at the proposal of the Confederal Presidency or of the National Federations, special signs of merit on Past Pupils, Salesians, or others who have distinguished themselves for special merits towards the Movement and the Association (Honorary member, badge of merit with diploma, medals, diplomas of loyalty).
- g) Proposes to the Rector Major the promulgation of the Statutes of the World Confederation as approved by the World Assembly.
- h) Maintains the unity, co-responsibility, spirit of initiative and main guidelines that ensure healthy exercising of the lay commitments of the Past Pupils, favouring the animation of young people.
- i) Performs the activities inherent in his mandate in close collaboration with the previously consulted Confederal Executive Council.
- j) Presides over the meetings of the Confederal Presidency and the Confederal Executive Council.

Art. 20 The Confederal Vice Presidents

The Confederal Vice Presidents:

- a) Substitute for the President in case of his absence.
- b) Receive specific tasks from the President and from the Confederal Executive Council, particularly within the ambit of animation, in certain areas. These tasks are performed through the organisational structures already existing there.
- c) They can make use of experts to study and propose cultural, social, ecclesiastical projects to the Past Pupils, bearing in mind their priority of attention towards young people.
- d) They help the President in favouring the unity and communion of all the Federations with the Confederal Presidency.
- e) In particular the GEX Vice President animates the GEX Sector's activity in common with the Regional Councillors.

Art. 21. The Regional Councillors

The Regional Councillors

- a) Are the witnesses, animators and interpreters of the Confederation in their Regions. They make up the regional network of the Confederation.
- b) They receive specific tasks from the Confederal Presidency, especially for the mission of animation in their respective Regions, making use of existing organisations.

- c) They may resort to the help of experts in the study and preparation of proposals for the benefit of Past Pupils' cultural, social and ecclesiastical projects in their respective regions, with special attention to the needs of youth.
- d) They assist the President and the Confederal Vice Presidents in their efforts to favour the union and communion of all the National or Provincial Federations with the members of the Confederal Presidency.
- e) They assist the National and Provincial Federations in their respective Regions, together with all the members of the Confederal Presidency, in the work of animation of the Past Pupils of Don Bosco.

Art. 22. The Confederal Delegate

The Confederal Delegate

- a) Is the representative of the Rector Major of the Congregation and the spiritual animator of the World Confederation, in particular of the Confederal Presidency and the Confederal Executive Council. Same carries out this animation with written letters, personal contacts and visits in which he studies the different local situations of life and work.
- b) Animates the permanent formation of the Past Pupils of Don Bosco, with special attention to the young ones. He/she does all of this together with the Regional Councillors in their Regions and with other qualified lay people.
- c) Edits publications and other aids for the formation and the spiritual and cultural animation of the Past Pupils, and in particular of the members of the Confederal Presidency.
- d) Informs the Rector Major of the Salesian Congregation and his Vicar about the situation both of the World Confederation and of the various National and Provincial Federations.
- e) Receives his guidelines from the Vicar of the Rector Major, the head of the Salesian Family.
- f) Is a member by right of the electoral Commission for the renewal of the Confederal Presidency.

Art. 23. The Secretary General

The Secretary General

- a) Is an elected member of the Confederal Presidency.
- b) Can propose the nomination of one or more additional secretaries to the Confederal Presidency so that same receive approval.
- c) Is responsible for the Secretariat of the World Confederation.
- d) Has advanced skills in the use of the internet and knows at least one language as well as his own tongue of origin.
- e) Maintains good public relations with the heads of the other groups of the Salesian Family and with other organisations.
- f) Draws up a projects report once a year and submits it to the Confederal Presidency meeting.
- g) Collaborates in drawing up the Agenda for meetings of the Confederal Presidency and the Confederal Executive Council.
- h) Draws up the minutes of all the meetings and sends them, within 30 days, to the members who were present and those who justified their absence, taking care of any necessary translations.
- i) Is responsible for the acts and minutes and submits them for approval.
- j) Takes care of everything that is necessary for the efficient running of the Secretariat.
- k) Is responsible for all the assets of the World Confederation and prepares an annual inventory, which he/she sends to the Confederal Treasurer.

- l) Is responsible for the archiving of all occurrences and all information received from the National and Provincial Federations.
- m) Is responsible for the organisation and updating of a (worldwide) database of addresses of the members of the National and Provincial Federations and of the recognised groups.
- n) Is responsible for the creation and updating of the list of recognised National and Provincial Federations, Local Associations and recognised groups, and for publishing this list every year.
- o) Starts the procedures for elections, six months before the World Assembly, by announcing the date of the elections to all the National or Provincial presidents and requesting the dossiers of nominees.
- p) Is responsible for achieving the organisation of the World Confederation, following its accounts and action.
- q) Is a member by right of the electoral Commission for the renewal of the Confederal Presidency, in the event he is not a candidate to the Presidency.
- r) May be co-opted by the Presidency and in this case does not have voting rights.

Art. 24. The Confederal Treasurer

The Confederal Treasurer

- a) Is an elected member of the Confederal Presidency and is responsible, together with the President of the World Confederation, for the finances of the Confederation.
- b) Can propose the creation of a financial committee **to address** specific problems.
- c) Is responsible for the World Confederation's bank account together with the Confederal President and the Secretary General, and is moreover authorised to carry out financial movements on the account. Each movement, under penalty of invalidity, must be countersigned by at least 2 of the 3 above mentioned persons responsible for the account.
- d) Draws up the annual budget and the annual balance sheet and submits them to the Confederal Presidency meeting for checking and approval.
- e) Maintains the accounts up to date.
- f) Ensures that any extraordinary expenses not envisaged in the annual budget are specifically approved by the Confederal Executive Council and annually draws up a relevant report.
- g) Collects the annual contributions of the National and Provincial Federations in the month of January, after sending out an invitation to make this payment.
- h) May be co-opted by the Presidency and in this case does not have voting rights.

Chapter VIII

Decisions

Art. 25. Voting in the Presidency and in the Confederal Executive Council

- a) All effective members of the Confederal Executive Council and of the Confederal Presidency have the right, on an equal basis, to express their opinions and to vote.
- b) Decisions are passed by a simple majority ($\frac{1}{2} + 1$) of those present. If half the members are not present, no decision can be taken, unless they have given written authorisation.
- c) Voting by written authorisation (proxy) is permitted and valid with full rights. The proxy holder must be a member of the Confederal Presidency.
- d) Each member can hold only 1 written authorisation.
- e) In case of an equal number of votes, the World President will have the (single) casting vote.
- f) The World Delegate and the Vicar of the Rector Major have voting rights.
- g) Co-opted members, invited persons, specialists or experts, do not have voting rights.
- h) The exercising of voting rights must guarantee the anonymity of the person entitled to said right.

Art. 26. Voting in the General World Assembly

- a) The following have voting rights:
 - ✓ The President of each National Federation has 1 vote.
 - ✓ The President of each National Federation, in which there are several Provincial Federations, has 1 vote for each of the Salesian Provincials present therein.
 - ✓ The President of a Provincial Federation where there is no National Federation has 1 vote.
 - ✓ Each member of the Confederal Presidency has 1 vote.
- b) Voting by proxy given to another member of the same organisation is permitted. More than 1 proxy to the same member is not allowed. A proxy, signed by the plenipotentiary and by a person who authorises same, specifying their identity and position, may be given to a member of their own Federation or to another person with voting rights from another Federation in the same geographical area.
Exception may be made for Regional Councillors of the Region who must be authorised by the Provincial.
- c) Conditions for exercising voting rights: any National Federation or Provincial Federation that has not made payment of its annual membership fee shall not exercise any voting rights.

Chapter IX

Confederal Presidency Elections

Art. 27: Electoral Commission

10 months before the end of the term in office of the confederal appointments, the Confederal Executive Council will appoint an electoral Commission composed of at least 3 members, the Secretary General and the Confederal Delegate. The Commission will choose a President from amongst its members.

The Confederal Presidency will submit a complete list to the Electoral Commission of all those with voting rights. This list will be published on the Past Pupils' website at least 1 month before the date fixed for the elections.

The tasks of the electoral Commission are:

- a) Draw up voting regulations;
- b) Call for nominations for the Confederal Presidency 6 months before the elections;
- c) In case of the Assembly being convened by post, carry out the final check and count of the postal votes received and disseminate a list of those elected, by means of specific minutes;
- d) Ask the elected persons to vote on the shortlist of three to be submitted to the Rector Major.

The members of the Commission cannot be nominated for election to the Presidency. The Confederal Presidency will submit a complete list to the Electoral Commission of all those with voting rights. This list will be published on the Past Pupils' website at least 1 month before the date fixed for the elections.

Art. 28: Nominations

Each National Federation can submit up to 3 nominations, 1 of which is reserved to a Gex (young past pupil); the approval of the President, the national Delegate and the Provincial for the territory of membership of the candidate is required.

The approved list will be disseminated by the Electoral Commission at least 2 months before the World Assembly

In no case shall nominations submitted beyond said term be allowed.

Art. 29:

- a) **Election of the Confederal President, Confederal Vice President and the GEX Confederal Vice President**

The President of the electoral Commission, once the voting and ballot counting operations are over and immediately after having laid the complete list of the candidates and respective votes gained before the General Assembly, delivers the list of the newly elected persons to the Rector Major with an indication of the shortlist of the three most voted candidates, from amongst whom the Rector Major will appoint the Confederal President.

The Confederal President, together with the Vicar of the Rector Major, the Confederal Delegate and the representative of the Priest Past Pupils, who are members by right, will call those elected to the Confederal Presidency to a meeting, which will proceed to appoint the Vice Presidents, the Secretary General and the Treasurer. Each component of the newly elected Presidency, including the members by right, expresses one sole preference by secret ballot.

b) Members of the Confederal Presidency: the Regional Councillors

All those with voting rights who belong to a Region can vote for all the candidates of said Region (according to the votes attributed on the basis of art. 26) to elect the members of the Confederal Presidency. The members of the Confederal Presidency vote for the candidates of the Region to which they belong. The Vicar of the Rector Major and the World Delegate are considered as belonging to the Region of Europe.

The candidate who obtains the largest number of votes in their own Region becomes Regional Councillor for that Region.

The young person who obtains the largest number of votes in their own Region becomes GEX Regional Councillor for that Region.

c) Secretary General and Confederal Treasurer

In its first meeting, convened by the President immediately after the conclusion of the voting, at the proposal of the Confederal President, the new Confederal Presidency will appoint the Secretary General and the Confederal Treasurer by choosing them from amongst its own members or co-opting them.

Art. 30 Term in office

- a) The Confederal President holds office for 6 years and may be reconfirmed 1 time only, bearing in mind that any appointments previously taken up in the Presidency are not taken into account in the calculation. The members of the Presidency hold office for 6 years and, ordinarily, may be re-elected 1 time only.
- b) The same criteria for term in office apply to any members who are co-opted to the Presidency and to the Council.
- c) In case of the resignation or death of the President or the Vice President, the Rector Major informed respectively by the Vice President or the President, will indicate a couple of names from amongst the surviving members to the Presidency and said Presidency will then appoint a substitute until the normal expiry date of the previous mandate.
- d) In case of the resignation or death of a member of the Confederal Presidency, the President will convene the Confederal Executive Council for:
 - ✓ The official acknowledgement of the resignation of the Councillor or his/her death.
 - ✓ The usual notice, in case of death, to the Salesian Family.
 - ✓ The programme of consequent activities such as the attribution of the office of Councillor of the Presidency to the first of the unelected persons (adult or GEX as the case may be) of the regional district to which the Councillor belonged; in the event same was a member of the Confederal Executive Council, appointment of the new councillor will be done by the Presidency, made up as set out herein above.In the absence of an available candidate on the list, the Confederal Presidency can co-opt a substitute.
- e) Past Pupils vested with important public and private roles, cannot carry out mandates, especially those of President. The Confederal Presidency is competent to assess any special cases.

Chapter X

Information and notices

Art. 31: Information bodies

- a) Through the Confederation's official site, the Presidency puts in place periodical animation and information for the national Federations and for anyone interested in the association's activities. The site 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 XI

Banner, badge, merit awards, days of celebration

Art. 32. 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, anniversaries, international and world conferences, reunions and meetings.
- b) The Badge, together with the Banner, is the visible sign of the unity of the Confederation and of belonging to it. Designed and cast at the request of the Confederal Presidency, it is deposited with 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 Pupil Movement
 - ✓ 5th October Feast of the Blessed Alberto Marvelli
 - ✓ 5th December Feast of the Blessed Filippo Rinaldi
 - ✓ 8th December Feast of the Immaculate Conception and commemoration of the start of the Salesian Family

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

Chapter XII

Financing

Art. 33 Membership

The World Confederation receives its financial means from:

- a) **Annual membership fees**, paid by each National Federation, an expression that they belong to the World Confederation. The National Federations are obliged to contribute towards the upkeep of the World Confederation through fees fixed by the Confederal Presidency in relation to the number of members. The Confederal Presidency will annually decide upon the amount of the membership fee due from each National Federation taking into account the national average per capita income.

The Confederal Presidency **establishes** the amount of membership fees each year. This fee is paid by each Provincial Federation or each National Federation if there are no Provincial Federations. In the event that the National Federation is composed of various Provincial Federations, the fee is due from every Provincial Federation. In the event that the National Federation has not been established, the fee is due from every Provincial Federation.

- b) **Donations and projects**. With these aims the Confederal Treasurer is allowed to organise activities and projects. The World Confederation is authorised to receive income and contributions from various sources for the aims prescribed in these Statutes.

Art. 34 Expenses

On the basis of actual income and according to the budget put forward by the Confederal Treasurer, the Confederal Presidency can appropriate a certain amount, each year, to a member of the Confederal Presidency for the execution of a proposed and approved project.

The Confederal Treasurer can settle the travel and other expenses of members of the Confederal Presidency and of the Confederal Executive Council or of other persons, only if there is a prior authorisation of the Confederal Executive Council. (All expenses must be accompanied by a relevant invoice).

Chapter XIII

Disciplinary rules and penalties

Art. 35 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 the Presidencies at all levels.
They, after having ascertained conduct not in keeping with statutory and regulatory rules or that is in any case injurious to organisation and community life, or due to other serious reasons, can decide with the consent of 2/3 of their members on:
- ✓ A motion of no-confidence and a request for resignation.
 - ✓ The dismissal from office (in case of a manager).
 - ✓ The expulsion of the Past Pupil from the Association.
- b) The decisions in the foregoing section may be appealed against by an immediately higher organisation.

Chapter XIV

Text - Interpretation and amendments

Art. 36 Official Text

- a) The official text of these Statutes is the one drawn up in Italian and deposited with the General Secretariat bearing the signatures of the Rector Major of the Salesian Congregation, the World President, the Vicar of the Rector Major, the Secretary General and the Confederal Salesian Delegate.
The various translations into different languages must be authorised by the Confederal Presidency and must expressly show the approval obtained.
- b) Any controversies on the authentic interpretation and enforcement of these Statutes and the National Regulations shall be referred to the Confederal Presidency.
- c) The present Confederal Statutes can serve as a model for drawing up the Statutes or Constitutions of National or Provincial Federations, and even those of Local Associations.
- d) The National Statutes must be presented to the Confederal Executive Council for approval and they come into force after obtaining it. This also applies in case of future amendments.
- e) All the members of the Confederal Presidency and the National Federations may put forward amendments to these Statutes. Definitive approval is the task of the General World Assembly and requires a majority of 2/3 of the members with voting rights.

Art. 37: Headquarters

The headquarters of the World Confederation of the Past Pupils of Don Bosco is established in the General House of the Salesian Congregation, currently at Via Della Pisana 1111, I-00163 Rome, Italy.