

Bylaws
of

Sigma Sigma Sigma Sorority

Incorporated in the state of Virginia
1903

(These Bylaws are secret and for the
exclusive use of its members)

2016

PROPERTY OF _____ CHAPTER
SIGMA SIGMA SIGMA SORORITY

Bylaws of Sigma Sigma Sigma

PREAMBLE

Whereas the purpose of Sigma Sigma Sigma Sorority shall be to establish among its members a perpetual bond of friendship, to develop in them strong womanly character, and to impress upon them high standards of conduct.

Article I

NAME

The name of the non-profit organization, as incorporated in the State of Virginia, is Sigma Sigma Sigma Sorority, Inc.

Article II

DEGREES AND MEMBERSHIP

A-DEGREES

Section 1. The three degrees of Sigma Sigma Sigma shall be the Arc, Triangle and Circle.

Section 2. The Arc Degree shall be given to new members and alumnae initiates.

Section 3. The Triangle Degree, which requires initiation, shall be given to new members and alumnae initiates who have met the requirements for initiation. The Triangle Degree shall be given only to those who have taken the Arc Degree.

Section 4. The Circle Degree shall be given to initiated Sigma Sigma Sigma alumna.

B-MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The Sorority shall have four membership groups: new members, collegiate members, alumnae and alumnae initiates.

Section 2. Members of Sigma Sigma Sigma shall not belong to any other National Panhellenic Conference member group.

Section 3. The women in each membership group shall uphold these Bylaws and the National Policies and Position Statements of Sigma Sigma Sigma.

Section 4. Every member is responsible to safeguard the Sorority's ritual. Access to the ritual book, ceremonial robes, ceremonial equipment, etc. and/or the sharing of information concerning any of these is limited to initiated members of the Sorority.

C-NEW MEMBERS

Section 1. A new member shall be a woman who is matriculated in an institution where an active collegiate chapter of Sigma Sigma Sigma is located and has received and accepted an invitation to membership in Sigma Sigma Sigma.

Section 2. A new member shall receive Arc Degree.

Section 3. A fee shall be paid at the time of pledging.

Section 4. The New Member orientation program shall be a minimum of three weeks and shall not exceed eight weeks, without the permission of a representative of National Headquarters.

Section 5. Scholastic eligibility for pledging and initiation for a new member shall be a cumulative scholastic average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent, or the chapter standard if greater.

Section 6. A new member may be advanced to the Triangle Degree after the new member has completed the new member orientation program and the chapter verifies that she has successfully passed the National Test and has paid all required fees.

Section 7. A new member shall purchase a badge from the official jeweler of the sorority. A new member legacy may request permission from the Sorority to use the badge of her relative.

Section 8. If a new member is not initiated within one calendar year from the date she was originally pledged, her pledge automatically expires.

D-COLLEGIATE MEMBERS

Section 1. A collegiate member is a new member who has received the Triangle Degree.

Section 2. A member's official membership shall remain with the chapter that initiates her.

Section 3. Any member matriculated in the college where the chapter of her initiation is located shall have the privilege and obligations of active membership in the collegiate chapter.

Section 4. A collegiate member enrolled for any part of the college year shall pay annual national dues and fees.

Section 5. A collegiate member in good standing is defined as a member whose cumulative scholastic average is 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale, whose Sorority dues and fees are paid and who is not on Honor Council.

Section 6. A member whose cumulative scholastic average falls below 2.5 (or the chapter standard if greater) shall lose the privilege of holding office, or chairmanship in her chapter and in the local Panhellenic. If, at the end of the term, quarter, semester or trimester she has brought her cumulative average to the required standard, she may be automatically reinstated to good standing, but she may not resume her office or chairmanship.

Section 7. A member in good standing of this Sorority transferring from one college to another in which a Sigma Sigma Sigma chapter exists, may affiliate with the chapter, upon mutual agreement, after receiving written approval from the Assistant Director of Chapter Services of the chapter from which the woman is transferring. The transferring member retains all the rights and privileges of active membership as long as she continues to be in good standing.

Section 8. A Sigma Sigma Sigma undergraduate member returning after a prolonged absence shall be considered an alumna member of the Sorority. Such a matriculated member in good standing, however, who desires to share in the privileges and obligations of active membership in a Collegiate Chapter may, at the discretion of the Collegiate Chapter and the Chapter Advisory Board, affiliate with the Collegiate Chapter.

Section 9. A collegiate member in good standing may also be granted special collegiate membership status:

- a) Special Consideration – granted by the local Honor Council; may adjust a member’s participation or financial requirements; may be for any period of time not to exceed one academic year.
- b) Inactive Status – must be approved by the local officer board and Chapter Advisory Board and then may be granted by National Headquarters; shall remain in effect for one academic year; member may not participate in recruitment.
- c) 5th Year Senior Status – must be approved by the local officer board and Chapter Advisory Board; automatically granted by National Headquarters provided all required forms and fees are submitted on time; shall remain in effect for one academic year; member may not participate in recruitment.

E-MEMBER ACCOUNTABILITY

Section 1. Collegiate Accountability

If a member is persistently negligent in meeting her local and/or national financial obligations, or by conduct fails to uphold national standards, ideals, Bylaws, and the National Policies and Position Statements of the Sorority, or engages in behavior disruptive to the orderly conduct of Sigma Sigma Sigma activities or engages in unlawful conduct, the chapter of which she is a member may, by two-thirds (2/3) vote (with the exception of the member in question), temporarily suspend the member from chapter privileges after she has gone through the entire due process of Honor Council.

Section 2. Alumnae Accountability

- a) Alumnae violations of Tri Sigma’s Bylaws, Policies or Positions Statements may result in disciplinary action, up to and including membership termination.
- b) The Director of Lifetime Engagement is granted authority to receive referrals, conduct investigations and hold alumnae members accountable when necessary, up to and including recommendations for termination of membership.

F-ALUMNAE MEMBERS

Section 1. An alumna member is:

- a) a member in good standing who is no longer enrolled as an undergraduate in a college or university where a Sigma Sigma Sigma chapter exists, or is
- b) a collegiate member who has been granted alumna status as an undergraduate collegian as a result of the suspension or redevelopment of her collegiate chapter.
- c) a member who is returning to school after a prolonged absence and does not want to continue her membership as a collegiate member of the sorority.

Section 2. An alumna in good standing shall pay national alumnae dues and fees.

G-ALUMNA INITIATE

Section 1. A woman who desires to become an alumna initiate of the Sorority cannot belong to another National Panhellenic Conference member group.

Section 2. A woman is not eligible for alumna initiate membership if she is otherwise eligible to be a collegiate new member, and there is no Sigma Sigma Sigma Collegiate Chapter at her college/university.

Section 3. An alumna initiate candidate must receive and accept an invitation to membership in Sigma Sigma Sigma.

Section 4. The alumna initiate shall receive the Arc degree.

Section 5. The alumna initiate shall pay an initiation fee that includes full payment of the Loyalty Fund.

Section 6. The alumna initiate shall purchase a badge from the official jeweler of the Sorority.

Section 7. If initiated by a collegiate chapter, the alumna initiate's chapter affiliation shall be that collegiate chapter. If initiated by an alumnae chapter, the alumna initiate's chapter affiliation shall be designated as Iota Alpha or IA.

Section 8. Alumna initiates are entitled to all rights and privileges of Sigma Sigma Sigma alumna membership.

H-MEMBERSHIP TERMINATION

Section 1. A collegian or an alumna member may petition the Executive Council to terminate her membership.

Section 2. If a member is persistently negligent in meeting her local and/or national financial obligations, or by her conduct fails to uphold national standards and ideals, the Bylaws, and the National Policies of the Sorority, or engages in behavior disruptive to the orderly conduct of Sigma Sigma Sigma activities, or engages in any unlawful conduct, her membership may be terminated by the Sorority by order of Executive Council.

Section 3. Whenever a collegiate or an alumna membership is terminated by the member or by the Sorority, the terminated member shall return the Triangle badge, membership certificate and any other articles bearing the insignia of Sigma Sigma Sigma to National Headquarters. There shall be no financial remuneration to the terminated member.

Section 4. Collegiate or alumna members whose membership has been terminated for reasons other than policy violations may petition to Executive Council to have their membership reinstated.

Section 5. Collegiate or alumna members whose membership has been terminated for policy violations, and/or through the accountability process, may petition to Executive Council to have their membership reinstated after a period of five years since termination.

Article III ELECTED OFFICERS

A-GENERAL

Section 1. The elected officers of the Sorority shall be: National President, National Treasurer, and four National Vice Presidents. These officers, together with the National Panhellenic Conference Delegate, make up the Executive Council of the Sorority. The Executive Council leads the organization by:

- Determining the organization's mission, purpose and vision
- Serving as the supreme governing body between Conventions
- Ensuring effective organizational planning
- Providing sound financial management
- Determining, monitoring, and strengthening the organization's programs and services
- Enhancing the organization's public standing
- Ensuring legal and ethical integrity and maintaining accountability

Section 2. The Nominating Committee shall present names of candidates for the elected officer positions of the Sorority to the Convention body. The Nominating Committee shall be made up of the following members:

- a) a chairman, who shall be a past Executive Council member and who shall have a committee vote in the case of a tie
- b) two current or past National Officers
- c) one alumnae representative (CAB, House Corporation or Alumnae Chapter President)
- d) one collegiate representative (past or current Consultant or Chapter President).

The Nominating Committee must obtain the acceptance of nomination from each candidate for office. The committee shall present one candidate for each elected officer position.

Section 3. The voting members at Convention shall elect the members of Executive Council other than the ex-officio members.

Section 4. The term for Executive Council begins at the end of Convention.

Section 5. Executive Council service shall be limited to four cumulative terms. Members with Executive Council service prior to 2010 are eligible to serve no more than five cumulative terms. Members serving for more than half of a term will be considered as having served a full term during that appointment.

Section 6. The Executive Council shall have the power and authority to fill any vacancy that occurs on Executive Council between Conventions.

Section 7. A member of Executive Council can be deposed from her office for misconduct or neglect of duties. A two-thirds (2/3) vote by the other Executive Council members is required to remove an officer from her position.

Section 8. Executive Council shall perform the duties prescribed by these Bylaws and by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Sorority.

Section 9. In the event of an Executive Council vote resulting in a tie, the position favored by the National President will prevail.

Section 10. Executive Council shall have the authority to delegate the duties prescribed by these Bylaws as it deems appropriate for the efficient conduct of the Sorority's business.

Section 11. When deemed necessary, the Executive Council may vote by mail or by electronic means.

Section 12. The Executive Council shall constitute the Board of Trustees of the Corporation as specified in the Virginia State Charter of Incorporation.

B-NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Section 1. The National President shall be the chief officer of the Sorority.

Section 2. The National President shall preside at Conventions and meetings of the Executive Council.

Section 3. She shall have general supervision of the work of the Sorority.

Section 4. Either the National President or a National Vice President appointed by the National President shall serve as an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee and Bylaws Committee.

Section 5. She shall be Custodian of the Rituals of Sigma Sigma Sigma.

C-NATIONAL TREASURER

Section 1. The National Treasurer shall be the second officer of the Sorority, serving in the absence of the National President, or in the case of vacancy in the presidency she shall serve as chairman pro tem until Executive Council can elect a president.

Section 2. The National Treasurer shall be the custodian of Sorority funds.

Section 3. She shall be responsible for the bonding of officers and employees handling Sorority funds.

Section 4. She shall be the custodian of official badges of the Sorority.

Section 5. She shall be an ex-officio member of The Mabel Lee Walton House Board of Trustees.

Article IV

APPOINTED NATIONAL POSITIONS & COMMITTEES

A-APPOINTED NATIONAL POSITIONS

Appointed national volunteer positions shall be selected by the Executive Director and affirmed by the Executive Council.

B-COMMITTEES

Section 1. Committees, standing or special, shall be appointed by Executive Council.

Section 2. Committee members shall be selected by Executive Council and appointed by the National President.

C-NATIONAL PANHELLENIC CONFERENCE DELEGATE

Section 1. The National Panhellenic Conference Delegate shall be appointed by the National President.

Section 2. The National Panhellenic Conference Delegate shall represent the Sorority within the National Panhellenic Conference, and shall direct and/or offer input regarding any Panhellenic related activities within the Sorority.

Section 3. The National Panhellenic Conference Delegate shall serve as an ex-officio member of Executive Council and shall participate in the discussions of Executive Council but shall have no right to vote on matters decided by Executive Council.

Article V GOVERNMENT

A-CONVENTION

Section 1. The supreme governing body of Sigma Sigma Sigma shall be the National Convention.

Section 2. National Convention shall be held at least every three years.

Section 3. The voting members of the National Convention shall consist of the Executive Council, National Officers and the credentialed collegiate and alumnae delegates.

Section 4. For purposes of votes taken during the National Convention, the Executive Council, National Officers, Past National Presidents, and credentialed alumnae delegates shall be considered one voting class called the “alumnae class” and credentialed collegiate delegates shall be considered a separate voting class called the “collegiate class.” The alumnae class and the collegiate class shall vote separately on each item of Convention business. Any member in good standing shall have the right to the floor.

Section 5. Separate majority votes of both the voting members of the alumnae class present and the voting members of the collegiate class present shall be necessary to transact any Convention business other than the amendment of these Bylaws. See Article XIV for rules governing the amendment of these Bylaws.

B-INTERIM BETWEEN CONVENTIONS

Section 1. The Executive Council shall be the supreme governing body between Conventions.

Section 2. Executive Council shall meet, as needed, to conduct the business of the Sorority between Conventions.

Section 3. Executive Council may hold national or regional meetings or workshops during the years between Conventions.

Section 4. Collegiate and alumnae chapter visitations shall be conducted under the supervision of the Executive Council.

Article VI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Section 1. The Executive Council shall employ a salaried executive.

Section 2. She shall attend Executive Council meetings at the invitation of the Executive Council.

Section 3. She shall be responsible for the day-to-day activities at National Headquarters and manage the paid staff.

Section 4. She shall be an ex-officio member of The Mabel Lee Walton House Board of Trustees.

Section 5. She shall serve as secretary to the Executive Council and as Corporate Secretary for Sigma Sigma Sigma, Inc.

Article VII COLLEGIATE CHAPTERS

A-ADMISSION OF COLLEGIATE CHAPTERS

Section 1. The Sorority shall establish collegiate chapters only in educational institutions which are given satisfactory ratings by the pertinent recognized associations of college and secondary schools.

Section 2. Any local sorority, social club or interest group whose standards conform to those of Sigma Sigma Sigma, and who has obtained permission from the proper authority as defined by the National Panhellenic Conference, may petition the Executive Council for a charter. Such petition shall be accompanied by a letter of endorsement from the college or university.

Section 3. A two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the Executive Council shall constitute authority to establish a colony.

Section 4. Upon completion of specified requirements, the Executive Council will vote to grant a collegiate chapter charter. A two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote shall be required for approval.

B- RECRUITMENT

Section 1. Membership in each chapter shall be determined by performance, educational achievement, and criteria related to the goals and purposes of the Sorority.

Section 2. Judgments shall not be made based upon other factors such as individual race, color, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, age or disability.

Section 3. The membership of the chapter shall consist of representatives of the undergraduate members.

Section 4. When the chapter receives a recommendation from a Sigma Sigma Sigma alumna on a potential new member, the chapter shall make every attempt to give the potential member additional consideration for membership.

Section 5. A legacy must be invited to the first invitational party. A legacy is defined as a sister, mother, daughter, granddaughter, niece, step-daughter, step-mother, or step-sister of a current Sigma Sigma Sigma member.

Section 6. Final voting on potential members shall be based on the standards set out in these Bylaws, and in the Principles of National Membership Selection, and shall be preceded by discussion of those standards. Final voting on potential members shall be by secret ballot. An invitation to membership shall be offered to a woman who has received an 85% affirmative vote. One negative vote cannot preclude membership. Names of candidates who fail the vote may be presented again at the end of one month.

Section 7. Each candidate shall receive a written invitation to membership in Sigma Sigma Sigma.

Section 8. The date of pledging for Panhellenic and Sorority purposes shall be considered the date a potential member's Preference Card is matched or the date a Continuous Open Bidding Acceptance Card is signed. This pledge shall be binding for one calendar year.

Section 9. A woman whose pledge is broken may not be pledged by another National Panhellenic Conference sorority on the same campus for one calendar year from the date she was originally pledged; however, she may repledge Sigma Sigma Sigma. The chapter must vote again to extend the woman membership following Section 6 above.

Section 10. When an uninitiated woman transfers to another campus, her pledge is automatically broken and she is eligible to pledge the National Panhellenic Conference sorority of her choice.

C-CHAPTER RESPONSIBILITIES

Section 1. Each chapter is responsible to safeguard the Sorority's ritual. Access to the ritual book, ceremonial robes, ceremonial equipment, etc. and/or the sharing of information concerning any of these is limited to initiated members of the Sorority.

Section 2. A chapter or any of its members shall not make any innovation or initiate any policy which may affect the entire sorority.

Section 3. Each chapter shall strive to be Accredited or Accredited with Honors annually.

Section 4. Chapters non-accredited for three consecutive years must present a Show Cause presentation.

Section 5. Chapters non-accredited for four consecutive years are subject to an Administrative Review.

Section 6. Chapters non-accredited after Administrative Review are subject to closure by Executive Council.

D-CHAPTER OFFICERS

Section 1. The elected officers of the chapter shall be President, Vice President of Operations, Vice President of New Member Education, Treasurer, Secretary, Education Director, Membership/Recruitment Director, and College Panhellenic Delegate.

Section 2. A nominating committee shall be comprised of one initiated member in good standing elected as a representative from each academic class in the collegiate chapter.

Section 3. Should a vacancy occur in an elected office, the Chapter President shall appoint a member to serve until the next regular election. Should the office of Chapter President become vacant, the Chapter Vice President of Operations becomes the acting president and calls a special election to elect a Chapter President for the remainder of the term.

E-FINANCES

Section 1. A charter fee shall be collected at the time of each collegiate chapter installation.

Section 2. The chapter is responsible for all expenses, excluding personal expenses, not covered by the Sorority for their delegate to attend Convention and national or regional meetings and workshops.

Section 3. Collegiate chapters may apply for loans from the National Organization. They may also apply for loans from outside sources in the name of the Sorority, but only after they have received Executive Council approval.

Section 4. Each collegiate chapter shall pay an annual insurance fee.

Section 5. Each collegiate chapter or colony must use the National Financial Management system for a billing system and fee collection. No other outside checking accounts will be permitted without consent from a representative of National Headquarters.

F- RIGHTS OF INCORPORATION

Any chapter that wishes to own or lease real estate shall cause a house corporation to be formed.

G-CHAPTER DISCIPLINE

If a chapter fails to uphold the ideals and standards of Sigma Sigma Sigma, the Executive Council shall determine appropriate discipline measures, which may include probationary status or termination of the chapter charter.

H-CHAPTER TERMINATION

Section 1. Termination of a charter may be initiated by the Executive Council for failure to uphold national ideals and standards, the Bylaws, National Policies and Position Statements of the Sorority, persistent negligence in the meeting of financial obligations, insubordination of the chapter, deterioration of the college, deterioration of the chapter, or for any other justifiable reason.

Section 2. A written notification shall be sent to the chapter whose charter is under consideration for removal by Executive Council. The reasons for the termination of the charter shall be clearly stated. Executive Council may give the chapter reasonable time in which to re-establish its good standing as a chapter. The time limit, if any, shall be clearly stated in the written notification.

Section 3. A chapter may initiate removal of its own charter. Before the charter may be released, the chapter shall submit to the Executive Council a formal petition which states the reason for requesting the charter removal and which is signed by 2/3 of the initiated collegiate members of the chapter. The petition should also state that members of the Chapter Advisory Board, Housing Corporation or Board have been informed of the decision.

Section 4. When it is deemed that a chapter redevelopment must be conducted by the national organization, concurrence of two Executive Council members may authorize voluntary/involuntary alumnae status upon the chapter.

Section 5. In the case of a collegiate chapter charter relinquishment or removal, the membership of all collegiate members shall be terminated if the charter is relinquished or removed due to violation of any Sigma Sigma Sigma National Policy, Bylaw or Position Statement. New members shall be released in accordance with National Panhellenic Conference guidelines.

I-ASSETS AND INVESTMENTS

Section 1. In the event of the suspension of collegiate chapter operations or removal of a collegiate chapter's national charter, the Executive Council shall have the authority to repair, maintain, manage, rent, sell, convey, lease or otherwise dispose of the assets or investments of the collegiate chapter and of any house corporation caused to be formed by the collegiate chapter, and to apply the rentals from any lease, or the proceeds from the sale, conveyance or other disposition of those assets or investment toward the payment of any debts of the collegiate chapter or house corporation. The Executive Council's authority shall extend to all assets and investments of the collegiate chapter or house corporation including real estate, furnishings and household equipment.

Section 2. The authority over the assets or investments of a collegiate chapter or house corporation granted the Executive Council pursuant to this section of the Bylaws shall be evidenced by a duly executed record power of attorney granting to the Executive Council the necessary authority to act on behalf of and in the name of the collegiate chapter or House Corporation. Any action taken by the Executive Council pursuant to this section of the Bylaws shall be taken as attorney-in-fact for the collegiate chapter or House Corporation and not by the Executive Council on its own behalf.

Section 3. Nothing in this Sub-Article I shall be construed to prevent the Executive Council, after debts and other obligations of the collegiate chapter or House Corporation have been satisfied, from distributing any remaining assets to the Sorority.

Article VIII ALUMNAE CHAPTERS

Section 1. Ten or more alumnae members in good standing may petition Executive Council for permission to form an alumnae chapter. The women signing the petition must all live in the area where the chapter will be formed.

Section 2. Alumnae chapters shall bear the name of the city or area in which they are located.

Section 3. Alumnae chapters shall:

- have a minimum of ten members
- transmit national alumnae dues and fees of the chapter and chapter members to the National Treasury
- support the philanthropic and educational programs of the Sorority
- send regular reports to the Lifetime Engagement Department
- have a minimum of four functions per year
- be entitled to send a delegate to Convention
- support the Bylaws and National Policies and Position Statements of the Sorority

Section 4. Each alumnae chapter shall develop and adopt their own bylaws within the limits prescribed in these Bylaws.

Section 5. Each alumnae chapter shall elect a President, and such other officers as are needed for effective operation of the chapter.

Section 6. The duties of the officers shall be as outlined in the Alumnae Chapter Manual and the chapter's bylaws.

Article IX FINANCES

Section 1. Executive Council shall set all fees and dues.

Section 2. The purpose of the Loyalty Fund, which is funded by a fee paid by each initiate prior to her initiation into the Sorority, is to assure financial stability for the Sorority. The Loyalty Fund is also used to provide collegiate chapter housing loans.

Section 3. Financial recommendations shall be submitted to the Convention by the National Treasurer.

Section 4. The Executive Council will determine prior to each Convention what Convention expenses the National Organization will pay from the National Treasury.

Section 5. The accounts of the National Treasury shall be audited annually by an accredited auditor.

Section 6. The salary and benefits of the Executive Director and other paid employees shall be determined by the Executive Council.

Article X BADGES AND EMBLEMS

Section 1. Badges and all insignia of the Sorority shall be ordered from the official jeweler.

Section 2. The badge of the Arc Degree shall be a triangle of silver having the Greek letter "Σ" in each corner; superimposed upon three arcs. This new member pin is the property of the local chapter.

Section 3. The official badge of the Triangle Degree shall be an equilateral triangle set with pearls having an indented border. The badge should also include a raised inner portion of black enamel with a "Σ" in each corner and a symbolic skull and crossed bones in the center.

Section 4. The official badge is the property of the Sorority, which retains legal title.

Section 5. The Sigma Sigma Sigma badge may not be worn by any man.

Section 6. A facsimile of the badge may not be used on stationery, rings or in any other manner. A photographic reproduction or drawing may be used in official fraternal publications or in a college yearbook.

Section 7. In the case of the death of an Executive Council member, a Founder or a Past National President, collegiate members shall wear a narrow, black ribbon under the official badge or new member pin for three days, immediately upon receiving notice of the death. Each chapter shall commemorate the death of a member in the same way.

Section 8. The badge of a deceased member may be buried with her. If it is not buried with her, then as the property of the Sorority, it shall be returned to National Headquarters.

Section 9. The badge of the Circle Degree shall be a small triangle of gold, within a gold circle, worn as a guard or a dangle to the badge of the Triangle Degree.

Section 10. The colors of this Sorority shall be royal purple and white.

Section 11. The flower shall be the purple violet.

Section 12. The official jewel shall be the pearl.

Section 13. The official banner shall have a purple ground crossed from the upper left to the lower right by a white band. Upon this band in purple shall appear the Greek letters “ΣΣΣ”. In the upper half shall be a white circle; in the lower half a white indented triangle.

Section 14. The coat-of-arms shall be a purple shield with a white band running from the upper left to the lower right, bearing the Greek letters “ΣΣΣ” in gold. Above and below this band shall appear five secret symbols in gold and in white whose meanings are explained in the officers’ installation ceremony. The Greek inscription below the shield translated is the open motto of Sigma Sigma Sigma, “Faithful Unto Death”.

Section 15. A golden violet pin may be given to each Sigma Sigma Sigma who is nominated and meets the requirements for loyalty through fifty years of membership.

Article XI AWARDS

A-GENERAL

Section 1. Executive Council may present chapter awards for outstanding performances in specific areas of the Sorority program.

Section 2. Executive Council may present individual awards for outstanding performances in specific areas of the Sorority program.

B-ALUMNAE/COLLEGIATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Section 1. The Chapter Presidents of the chapters who have won a national Sorority award, the Mabel Lee Walton Award winner and the Emily Gates Award winner shall make up the Alumnae/Collegiate Advisory Committee the year they win their award. Executive Council, at their discretion, may invite other members to serve on this committee.

Section 2. The Alumnae/Collegiate Advisory Committee shall meet with officer(s) of the Executive Council.

Article XII NATIONAL MEMORIAL HEADQUARTERS

Section 1. The National Memorial Headquarters in Woodstock, Virginia, known as the Mabel Lee Walton House, shall be under the management of the Mabel Lee Walton House Board of Trustees.

Section 2. The Mabel Lee Walton House Board of Trustees shall be appointed by the Executive Director, affirmed by Executive Council and report to the Executive Director.

Section 3. The membership of the Mabel Lee Walton House Board of Trustees shall be composed of alumnae, two-thirds (2/3) of whom shall have had six years' experience as a national officer, elected or appointed. The National Treasurer and the Executive Director shall be ex-officio members of the Mabel Lee Walton House Board of Trustees.

Section 4. The Mabel Lee Walton House Board of Trustees shall refer to the Executive Council of Sigma Sigma Sigma any matters which might arise concerning major policy decisions pertaining to the National Memorial Headquarters.

Article XIII PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The most recent editions of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised* shall govern the Sorority in all matters of parliamentary procedure.

Article XIV AMENDMENTS OF BYLAWS

Section 1. Two-thirds (2/3) of the members eligible to vote at Convention shall be required as a quorum to amend any part of these Bylaws. Amendment of any part of these Bylaws shall also require separate affirmative votes of both two-thirds (2/3) of the voting members of the alumnae class present and two-thirds (2/3) of the voting members of the collegiate class present.

Section 2. Temporary amendments may be made by a majority vote of the Executive Council during the interim between Conventions, but these shall be presented for vote at the next Convention.

Section 3. Resolutions relating to changes in the Bylaws or National Policies which are to be presented to the Convention body shall be submitted in writing to Executive Council by the winter Executive Council meeting preceding Convention and shall be provided electronically to the Convention delegates at least 60 days prior to the opening of Convention. Executive Council shall use its best judgment to determine which resolutions will be presented to the Convention delegates.

Article XV NATIONAL PANHELLENIC CONFERENCE

The members of this Sorority shall observe the Unanimous Agreements of the National Panhellenic Conference.

Article XVI INDEMNIFICATION

As permitted by Section 13.1-205.1 (f) of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, the Sorority shall indemnify its officers and employees against expenses (including attorney's fees) and judgments and fines (civil, criminal and

administrative), incurred by any such officer or employee by reason of the fact that she is or was such officer or employee of the Sorority, in any civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative proceeding. Such indemnity shall not apply to the gross negligence or willful misconduct of any officer or employee. Such indemnity shall continue as to a person who has ceased to be an officer or employee and inure to the benefit of her estate.

Article XVII DISSOLUTION

Upon dissolution of the Sigma Sigma Sigma Sorority, no part of the net earnings of this Sorority shall ever inure to the benefit of any private individual or member except as reasonable compensation for services rendered in effecting one or more purposes of the corporation, and upon dissolution of the Sorority or liquidation of its property and assets, no part of such money or assets shall be distributed to any individual, director, officer, or other person, but such assets and property shall be disposed of or used for similar educational, charitable, or social purposes carried on in the U.S.A. determined by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Sorority's Executive Council.

NATIONAL POLICIES

FUNDAMENTAL STANDARDS

WHEREAS, since the 1956 Convention, responsible chapter leaders have endorsed for the Sorority the fundamental standards policy:

"As a worthy Sigma Sigma Sigma each member is expected to set an example which reflects creditably upon her college, her chapter, and her Sorority by conducting herself in all places and at all times in a manner above reproach."

WHEREAS, spiritual and moral values are essential to the integrity of the individual in modern society, and

WHEREAS, each member of Sigma Sigma Sigma has pledged herself to live with honor, to develop strong womanly character, and to uphold the ideals and virtues of the illustrious founders of our Order, and

WHEREAS, a lowering of standards and careless attitudes would adversely affect the preservation and advancement of Sigma Sigma Sigma as a Greek-letter society of high principles, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Sigma Sigma Sigma looks to each member to exemplify in her personal life the heritage and ideals of the Sorority, and to maintain her self-respect and the respect of others, as a Sigma Sigma Sigma should, through intelligent and worthy conduct.

VISITATION AND CONDUCT IN COLLEGIATE HOUSING FACILITIES

WHEREAS, the Rituals and Declaration of Principles of Sigma Sigma Sigma state that the Sorority exists to establish a perpetual bond of friendship and offers opportunity for wholesome and gracious group living; and

WHEREAS, the presence of male visitors in private areas of Sigma Sigma Sigma collegiate housing facilities, including bedrooms, bathrooms and any other areas deemed as private and not "open to the public," tend to disrupt and interfere with the dynamics of group living amongst women in a sisterhood setting; and

WHEREAS, the presence in either public or private areas of Sigma Sigma Sigma collegiate housing facilities of any visitor(s) and members, both collegiate and alumnae and regardless of gender or sexual orientation, whose intentions and/or actions are romantic, intimate or sexual in nature, tends to disrupt and interfere with the dynamics of group living amongst women; and

WHEREAS, conduct, which is carnal or amorous in nature, in either public or private areas of Sigma Sigma Sigma collegiate housing facilities is also inappropriate and disruptive to wholesome and gracious group living; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that both resident and non-resident, collegiate and alumnae members are responsible for the behavior and conduct of guests, visitors and themselves, at all times, in any/all areas, public and private, of Sigma Sigma Sigma collegiate housing facilities; and be it further

RESOLVED, that members, guests and visitors shall conduct themselves in a manner that will not embarrass any other member or place any other member in an awkward, uncomfortable, or offensive situation, shall behave properly, politely, civilly, and fittingly, and shall display appropriate decorum, while present at Sigma Sigma Sigma collegiate housing facilities, in order to ensure the safety, well-being and respect of the residents and of all fellow members; and be it further

RESOLVED, that collegiate chapters shall establish visitation hours for the public areas of Sigma Sigma Sigma housing facilities; and be it further

RESOLVED, that any conduct which is disruptive, impolite, improper and/or disorderly is prohibited in all areas of Sorority housing facilities; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Sigma Sigma Sigma prohibits the presence of male visitors in bedrooms, bathrooms, and any other private areas of Sorority housing facilities; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the presence of any visitor(s) and members, both collegiate and alumnae and regardless of gender or sexual orientation, whose intentions and/or actions are intimate or sexual in nature, in private areas of Sigma Sigma Sigma collegiate housing facilities is also prohibited; and be it further

RESOLVED, that any conduct which is intimate or sexual in nature is prohibited in all areas of Sorority housing facilities.

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

WHEREAS, since 1898 Sigma Sigma Sigma has based its service to members, to the colleges where chapters exist, and to society at large on Tri Sigma's Declaration of Principles, and

WHEREAS, in upholding the essence of these Principles the following statements pertain:

The term, "controlled substance," means a drug or chemical whose manufacture, sale, possession, or use has been declared illegal by federal or state law unless the drug or chemical has been dispensed under a properly-licensed physician's prescription, including but not limited to the current list of controlled substances at the DEA Office of Diversion Control;

The manufacture, sale, possession, and use of controlled substances is regulated because of the dangers of addiction, abuse, physical and mental harm (including death) and the dangers from the trafficking of such substances by illegal means and from actions of persons who have used such substances;

The manufacture, sale, possession, or use of controlled substances other than prescription drugs is illegal at any time and at any age; is highly detrimental to the group and is highly dangerous to the individual; and is disruptive to the conduct of a responsible chapter; and

Prescription drug use is only appropriate under the direct supervision of a properly-licensed physician or practitioner and for treatment of a documented medical condition. Abuse or misuse of a controlled substance obtained through a physician's prescription is also highly detrimental to the group and highly dangerous to the individual and is also disruptive to the conduct of a responsible chapter, and

WHEREAS, the 2013 Convention body adopted the Alumnae Accountability process, specifying that the National Bylaws, National Policies and Position Statements apply to all members of Sigma Sigma Sigma, regardless of their status as New Member, Member or Alumna; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Sigma Sigma Sigma reaffirms its long standing policy prohibiting the manufacture, sale, possession, use of, or other involvement with any controlled substance, other than a prescription drug, by any collegiate or alumnae member and any collegiate or alumnae chapter; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Sigma Sigma Sigma also affirms its policy prohibiting the abuse or misuse of, or other unauthorized involvement with, any prescription drug by any collegiate or alumnae member or any collegiate or alumnae chapter; and be it further

RESOLVED, that adherence to this controlled substances policy shall be mandatory and is the personal responsibility of every collegiate and alumnae member and every collegiate and alumnae chapter of Sigma Sigma Sigma; and be it further

RESOLVED, that any collegiate or alumnae member of Sigma Sigma Sigma who is found through the collegiate or alumnae accountability processes to have violated this policy through prohibited involvement with a controlled substance will be terminated immediately from membership.

HAZING

WHEREAS, hazing shall have no part in a membership program, because it is detrimental to Sigma Sigma Sigma Sisterhood. Hazing is defined as any action taken or situation created, knowingly, whether on or off Sorority premises, to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, ridicule, or an uncomfortable atmosphere. Such activities may include but are not limited to the following: use of alcohol; creation of excessive fatigue; physical or psychological shocks; engaging in public stunts or jokes; morally degrading or humiliating games and activities; scavenger hunts or quests which must be completed within a specific amount of time; late work sessions which interfere with regular class attendance or study time; and any other activities which are not consistent with the rules, policies and regulations of the educational institution or the ritual, policies and procedures of the National Organization, and

WHEREAS, in many states, hazing practices are against the law, and

WHEREAS, all Sigma Sigma Sigma group and individual activities should exemplify love and respect for each Sister, and

WHEREAS, hazing does not exemplify love and respect toward a new member sister but rather a degree of physical abuse and undignified treatment, and

WHEREAS, hazing abuse may harm a Sister physically and/or emotionally, and

WHEREAS, hazing may create an uncomfortable atmosphere in the chapter, and

WHEREAS, hazing may draw criticism from campus, community, parents, and potential members, and

WHEREAS, sisterhood "spirit" and "unification activities" should be a reflection of the group's appreciation of each member's personal worth and should contribute to an increasingly meaningful participation and to mature relationships within the chapter, and

WHEREAS, hazing may subject Sigma Sigma Sigma chapters, individual members, or both to legal liability, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that hazing shall have no part in a membership program, because it is detrimental to Sigma Sigma Sigma Sisterhood, and be it further

RESOLVED, that any woman found accountable of hazing through collegiate or alumnae accountability processes will be immediately terminated from membership.

HOUSE DIRECTOR

RESOLVED, that Sigma Sigma Sigma affirms that a chapter with a house is best served by engaging a House Director. The individual House Corporation will be charged with determining the policy for the chapter and a live-in House Director.

ALCOHOL

WHEREAS, Sigma Sigma Sigma recognizes the different attitudes of its members toward the use of alcohol, the multiplicity of laws regarding age and liability, and the possibility of unwarranted slander, or the creation/perpetuation of individual and chapter image unbecoming to sorority women, and

WHEREAS, Sigma Sigma Sigma also recognizes the twin concepts of individual freedom and the responsibility of each individual for the welfare of others, and

WHEREAS, Sigma Sigma Sigma urges all members to practice the principles of personal dignity, self-discipline, and dedication to social standards worthy of Sigma Sigma Sigma, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Sigma Sigma Sigma reaffirms its long-standing policy prohibiting the storage, use, or serving of alcohol in a sorority housing facility; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the use or serving of alcohol is prohibited at any function or event initiated by, held under the auspices of, and/or financed in whole or in part by Sigma Sigma Sigma except at closed social events (as defined from time to time in the procedure manual of Sigma Sigma Sigma) held other than at the sorority housing facility, and that otherwise comply with the Sigma Sigma Sigma Procedures for Events Where Alcohol Is Served (as modified from time to time by Executive Council); and be it further

RESOLVED, that adherence to this alcohol policy, as interpreted in the procedure manual, shall be mandatory and is the personal responsibility of every

alumnae and collegiate member and alumnae and collegiate chapters of Sigma Sigma Sigma; and be it further

RESOLVED, that alcohol cannot at any time be purchased using chapter funds and shall never be given as a gift to any member or new member as part of a chapter activity; and be it further

RESOLVED, that, in addition to the restrictions imposed by the preceding paragraphs, no member of Sigma Sigma Sigma shall purchase, possess, consume, or distribute alcohol in a manner that would cause her or anyone else to violate applicable federal, state or local drinking laws or university policies; and be it further

RESOLVED, that, any chapter or individual collegiate or alumnae member of Sigma Sigma Sigma violating this policy is subject to disciplinary action.

ELECTRONIC AND SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

WHEREAS, Sigma Sigma Sigma works to both advance and protect the Sorority's brand as a part of our larger marketing and communications activities; and

WHEREAS, Sigma Sigma Sigma Sorority, its collegiate and alumnae chapters, its individual members, volunteers and employees actively engage in electronic and social media-based forms of communication; and

WHEREAS, electronic and social media-based communications have the ability to be rapidly and widely spread across multiple networks; and

WHEREAS, the electronic or social media communications of an individual member, employee or affiliate of Sigma Sigma Sigma can be misconstrued as the policy, position or belief of the National Organization; and

WHEREAS, Sigma Sigma Sigma recognizes third parties' need to protect their brand and proprietary information; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, when acting on behalf of the Sorority, new or initiated members, alumnae, volunteers or employees must not use electronic communications and/or social media to post, transmit, store, retrieve, display, distribute, share or download content that is defamatory, violent or sexually explicit material; or discriminatory language; and/or threats of violence; personal attacks based upon race, religion, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, age, national origin, ancestry, citizenship, disability status; or promotion of illegal activities.

FURTHER RESOLVED, when acting on behalf of the Sorority, new or initiated members, alumnae, volunteers or employees must verify that the content they post does not contain proprietary third party material without proper authorization or compliance with copyright, trademark or other applicable laws.

FURTHER RESOLVED, when not acting on behalf of the Sorority, new or initiated members, alumnae, volunteers or employees must never disclose confidential proprietary information learned in the course of their employment or involvement as a member or volunteer.

FURTHER RESOLVED, when not acting on behalf of the Sorority, new or initiated members, alumnae, volunteers or employees must not present views or personal thoughts, in written, image, graphic, video or photo form, on any electronic or social media outlet in a manner that could be construed to represent Sigma Sigma Sigma, Inc.

BIG BROTHER ORGANIZATIONS

WHEREAS, Sigma Sigma Sigma is a fraternal organization for women, and

WHEREAS, the activities of the Sorority are directed to the interests and needs of women, and

WHEREAS, Sigma Sigma Sigma chapters are not prepared or authorized to assume the responsibility legally or informally for the establishment by name or intent of men's auxiliary organizations, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that men's auxiliary organizations are inappropriate to the mission and purpose of Sigma Sigma Sigma, therefore, Sigma Sigma Sigma chapters shall not establish or affiliate with men's auxiliary organizations.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND HUMAN DIGNITY

WHEREAS, Sigma Sigma Sigma supports the statement on human dignity and sexual harassment endorsed by the NPC member groups:

"that college women should have a positive influence in the direction and achievements of the university community and activities should promote self-worth, human dignity, and a positive Greek image,

that the dignity of the individual is a basic element of a civilized society,

that individual self-worth is a necessary factor in establishing

healthy relationships between the sexes, and

that sexual harassment of women to any degree is a detriment to building self-worth,

that all activities, including competitive games, which are destructive, demeaning, or abusive, promote a negative image of the Greek community."

WHEREAS, engaging in such activities which are demeaning to the individual and do not reflect a positive image of our Sorority are not in conformance with the high standards and ideals maintained by Sigma Sigma Sigma, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Sigma Sigma Sigma does not endorse or support activities that are demeaning to either sex in nature, cause disharmony among NPC or any groups, do not respect the dignity of the individual and are counter-productive in purpose; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Sigma Sigma Sigma reaffirms its long-standing position prohibiting sexual harassment by any member and any chapter; and be it further

RESOLVED, that adherence to this sexual harassment and human dignity position statement shall be mandatory and is the personal responsibility of every member and chapter of Sigma Sigma Sigma; and be it further

RESOLVED, that any chapter or member of Sigma Sigma Sigma violating this position statement is subject to disciplinary action.

BEER COMPANY SPONSORSHIP

WHEREAS, beer company sponsorship of activities is in conflict with our National Policy regarding alcohol, and

WHEREAS, participation and support of such activities would appear to be an endorsement of the product and reflect unfavorably on the image and reputation of Sigma Sigma Sigma and the high standards maintained by its membership, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Sigma Sigma Sigma does not endorse beer company sponsorship of activities and does not support member or chapter participation in such activities.

NON-DISCRIMINATION

WHEREAS, Sigma Sigma Sigma is a private membership organization for women, and

WHEREAS, members are selected from a series of meetings, social gatherings and interviews by members of the Sorority, in accordance with the rules and regulations of the local college panhellenic, and

WHEREAS, candidates for collegiate membership in the Sorority shall be matriculated in an institution where a chapter is located and shall be selected based upon their meeting the eligibility requirements prescribed in the Sorority's Bylaws and the standards set out in the Sorority's Principles of National Membership Selection, therefore be it

RESOLVED, membership in each chapter shall be determined by performance, educational achievement and criteria related to the goals and purposes of the Sorority. Judgments shall not be made based upon other factors such as individual race, color, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, age or disability.

NOTE: Throughout this document, "members" include both initiated women and those who have been formally pledged but not yet initiated.