

# Bylaws of Chi Lambda Epsilon Chapter, Tri-Ess

## Article I. NAME:

Section 1 The name of this organization shall be: Chi Lambda Epsilon Chapter, an affiliated chapter of The Society for the Second Self, Inc., hereafter referred to as Chi Lambda Epsilon and Tri-Ess respectively.

## Article II. DEFINITION:

Section 1 Chi Lambda Epsilon is a non-profit, volunteer, educational, outreach organization

## Article III. AFFILIATION:

Section 1 Chi Lambda Epsilon is an affiliated chapter of Tri-Ess, but reserves the right to co-affiliate with other organizations.

Section 2 Chi Lambda Epsilon may, with the consent of a majority of the members voting, participate in communications with, and the mutual support systems of, other groups or organizations, which support, or promote the free expression of gender, but may not become bound by the by-laws or policies of any group other than Tri-Ess.

## Article IV. PURPOSE:

Section 1 The purpose of Chi Lambda Epsilon is to act as a non-sexual support group for crossdressers, spouses and life partners of crossdressers, and their families. Toward this end, it will:

- a Provide programs, speakers, services and social activities for the support of its members and to promote the acceptance of crossdressing.
- b Provide opportunities for crossdressing, for the purpose of developing self-understanding and self-acceptance.
- c Pass on knowledge and understanding of crossdressing to related organizations and to the public.
- d Assist members with problems related to crossdressing, whenever possible.
- e Promote the Bylaws, Policies and goals of Tri-Ess as stated in the Tri-Ess By-Laws and Policies.

## Article V. MEMBERSHIP:

Section 1 General Provisions

- a Individuals seeking Regular membership in Chi Lambda Epsilon must be crossdressers or spouses, partners, adult children or parents of crossdressers, must be at least eighteen (18) years of age, and not actively seeking, nor having had,

sexual reassignment. All prospective members must be interviewed by one or more authorized representatives of Chi Lambda Epsilon Chapter, who will submit to the Board of Directors a Screening Report. Having evaluated the Screening Report, the Directors will vote on the application, a simple majority being required to accept the applicant into membership.

- b Membership will not be denied on the basis of race, religious preference, physical appearance or disability, genetic sex, marital status, inability to pay, the amount of time spent crossdressed or use of hormones.

## Section 2 Regular members

- a Crossdressers and their spouses, life-partners, adult children or parents of crossdressers are eligible to become Regular members of Chi Lambda Epsilon Chapter provided they are members in good standing of Tri-Ess.
- b Regular members are entitled to all benefits of Chi Lambda Epsilon Chapter membership stated herein. In addition, they shall be entitled to hold office in Chi Lambda Epsilon Chapter, to cast one vote in chapter elections and/or referenda, and to attend all meetings, unless otherwise stated in these by-laws and policies.

## Section 3 Friends of Memberships

- a Persons having a legitimate constructive interest in Chi Lambda Epsilon Chapter but otherwise ineligible for membership under Article V, Section A, are eligible for Friends of membership. Supportive vendors may obtain Friends of Membership. Friends of members are required to seek membership in Tri-Ess or Friends of Tri-Ess as appropriate.
- b Friends of members may attend chapter meetings and serve on committees. They are entitled to use the library and to receive the monthly newsletter, but may not vote or hold office in Chi Lambda Epsilon Chapter though they may serve as committee chair.

## Article VI. SPOUSES, PARTNERS, AND FAMILY MEMBERS:

- Section 1 Spouses, partners and nuclear family members of crossdressers may enjoy all the rights of Regular members of Chi Lambda Epsilon Chapter provided they meet all the criteria for membership.
- Section 2 Spouses or partners who have lost a partner may apply to the Board of Directors for a continuation of their Regular membership status. By majority vote, the Board of Directors may grant such Regular membership on a case-by-case basis.
- Section 3 Participation in the Spouses' and Partners' Support Group and/or Couples' Group.
  - a All participants in the Chi Lambda Epsilon Spouses' and Partners' Support Group and/or Couples' Group must be qualified for membership under the general provision of Article V, Section 1 of the by-laws.

- b All participants in the Chi Lambda Epsilon Spouses' and Partners' Support Group and/or Couples' Group must be members of Tri-Ess and of Chi Lambda Epsilon Chapter.

Article VII. MINOR CHILDREN:

- Section 1 Minor children shall be considered special guests of Chi Lambda Epsilon Chapter. Their rights to attend approved chapter meetings shall not be abridged or denied. Attendance by minor children at Chi Lambda Epsilon Chapter functions is a family issue and will be decided as such, although it is strongly recommended that children attend only with the approval of both parents and/or legal guardians. A parent or legal guardian must accompany all minors attending meetings. The approved chapter meetings are: The Christmas Party, Summer Picnic and other designated family meetings as approved by the membership.

Article VIII. DUTIES OF MEMBERS:

- Section 1 The duties of all members are as follows
  - a All members of Chi Lambda Epsilon shall support and abide by the By-laws and policies of Chi Lambda Epsilon and Tri-Ess.
  - b They shall conduct themselves in an appropriate manner and strive to make others feel welcome.
  - c They shall also vote, if eligible, in Chi Lambda Epsilon elections and referenda.
  - d All members shall promote Chi Lambda Epsilon and Tri-Ess whenever possible
  - e It is expected that every Chi Lambda Epsilon member will do his/her share of work on chapter committees and projects.

Article IX. DUES AND ASSESSMENTS:

- Section 1 Annual Dues
  - a Chi Lambda Epsilon may levy annual dues against members payable on the date membership commences and in the month of April every year thereafter. Dues collected shall include both Chi Lambda Epsilon Chapter dues and Tri-Ess dues. The Chapter Treasurer shall remit Tri-Ess dues to the office of the Membership Director of Tri-Ess.
  - b Initial chapter dues shall be prorated quarterly from the time the member joins the chapter to the next April.
  - c Annual dues may be modified with the consent of a two-thirds majority of the voting members in attendance.
  - d Those failing to renew their memberships in Chi Lambda Epsilon or Tri-Ess within sixty (60) days of the date due shall immediately lose all membership privileges. The chapter shall keep accurate records of membership in Chi Lambda Epsilon Chapter and Tri-Ess.

## Section 2 Meeting Fees

- a Members shall be assessed a nominal fee to defray meeting expenses.
- b Non-transgendered spouses, partners, family members and guests shall also be assessed meeting fees.
- c Meeting fee assessments may be adjusted by a two-thirds majority of the voting members in attendance.
- d Any member who attends a Chi Lambda Epsilon Chapter Meeting must pay meeting fees, regardless of his/her time of arrival.
- e Members failing to pay the assessed meeting fees may not attend subsequent meetings and shall forfeit voting rights until said fees are paid in full.

## Section 3 Special Assessments

- a Members may be assessed fees for special purposes with the consent of a majority of the voting members in attendance.
- b Special assessments may not be levied on a recurring or continuing basis.

## Section 4 Hardships

- a A member may petition the Board in writing for the granting of a hardship status. This petition shall be reviewed in closed session of the Board and hardship status shall be reviewed annually. It is the member's responsibility to keep the Board apprised of his/her financial status.
- b In the case of severe financial hardship only the Board of Directors at its discretion, may invoke one of the following hardship plans:
  - 1 Payment of full dues in quarterly installments.
  - 2 Payment of dues discounted by one-third, in quarterly installments.
  - 3 Waiver of dues for one year, after which time a member is expected to move to one of the other hardship plans or pay dues in full.
- c The Chi Lambda Epsilon Chapter Board of Directors will send to the Membership Director of Tri-Ess a recommendation for hardship status and the type of hardship recommended.
- d In cases of permanent and total disability the chapter may request permanent waiver of dues from Tri-Ess National.
- e Cash flow problems other than indigence will not be considered valid grounds for granting a hardship status. Unwillingness to pay dues is not grounds for hardship status and will result in loss of all membership privileges.

- f Members granted hardship status will enjoy full membership privileges provided they meet all other criteria for membership.

Article X. MEETINGS:

Section 1 Chapter Meetings

- a Chapter meetings shall be held on the first Saturday of each month unless rescheduled or canceled at a previous Chapter meeting with the consent of a majority of the voting members in attendance.
  - 1 In the case of an emergency or otherwise last minute cancellation, the Board of Directors shall make all reasonable attempts to contact the member and invited guests to notify them of the cancellation.
- b Chi Lambda Epsilon reserves the right to restrict the number of guests at chapter meetings and the right to deny attendance to hostile, intoxicated or otherwise undesirable individuals.

Section 2 Board Meetings. Chi Lambda Epsilon Board of Directors shall meet each month prior to the date of the Chapter Meeting. The Chi Lambda Epsilon Board of Directors Meetings shall be open, except for discussion of items related to hardship or discipline.

Article XI. BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Section 1 General Provisions.

- a The voting members of Chi Lambda Epsilon shall annually elect a Chair and a Board of Directors of at least five persons, (hereinafter referred to as the Board), to serve from January 1st through December 31st of the calendar year.
- b The Board shall consist of the Chair and Board Members to do the following jobs:
  - 1 Chair of the Board
  - 2 Director of Finance and Membership
  - 3 Director of Screening and Orientation
  - 4 Director of Significant Other Support
  - 5 Liaison to Tri-Ess
- c If two or more people volunteer for the same position, the Chapter shall elect one by majority vote, holding a run-off if necessary to ensure a majority.

Section 2 Eligibility to serve on the Board shall be restricted to voting members who have been members for two calendar years, who have not previously been removed from the Board for cause, and do not serve as or in the capacity of an officer or director of any other transgender organization.

- a The Director of Significant Other Support must be a wife or partner of a crossdresser

### Section 3 Duties of the Board

- a The Board shall be responsible for the effective administration of Chi Lambda Epsilon, its By-laws, Policies and Board Directives and toward this end shall:
  - 1 Hold monthly meetings scheduled at the discretion of the Chair to discuss and pass on administrative matters.
  - 2 Appoint committees and/or delegates to perform tasks for the fulfillment of Board responsibilities.
  - 3 Make recommendations for action to the members of the chapter to be voted upon by the members of the chapter.
  - 4 The Board shall be responsible to the voting members of Chi Lambda Epsilon and to the governing body of Tri-Ess.
- b The Chair shall:
  - 1 Preside at all Chapter and Board Meetings.
  - 2 Represent Chi Lambda Epsilon to the public, to Tri-Ess and to other transgender organizations.
  - 3 Appoint a secretary from those members present to serve for the duration of a given meeting. She may, at the discretion of the member, appoint that member to serve for the duration of the calendar year.
  - 4 Oversee all forms of communications. i.e. Newsletter, website, email lists, etc.
- c The Director of Finance and Membership shall
  - 1 Maintain an accurate accounting of all monies collected and disbursed by the chapter.
  - 2 Maintain an accurate list of all members, their personal information, membership status with the chapter and Tri-ess.
  - 3 Maintain a chapter meeting attendance roster.
  - 4 Provide the chapter and Tri-Ess with all requested reports in a timely manner
- d The Director of Screening and Orientation shall
  - 1 Chair the Interview Committee
  - 2 Ensure that all inquirers are contacted and that all of the needs and issues are resolved to the best of our abilities in a timely manner.

- 3 Bring the Screening Report for each new prospective member before the Board of Directors for its decision and represent the Interview Committee in all such matters.
- e The Director of Significant Other Support shall
    - 1 Process new ideas for programs relating to SO issues
    - 2 Keep up to date on services available for wives, partners and family members
    - 3 Periodically submit articles to the chapter newsletter on related issues
    - 4 Represent the Significant Others and their interests on the Board of Directors
    - 5 Act as moderator in the Significant Other meeting.
  - f The Liaison to Tri-Ess shall
    - 1 Communicate our concerns as a chapter and as individual members to Tri-Ess and to bring back its response(s)
    - 2 Communicate the concerns of Tri-Ess to the chapter and individual members and to return our response(s)
    - 3 Communicate with Tri-Ess regarding Tri-Ess wide programs and participation in joint projects between tri-Ess and the chapter.
  - g Other additional duties may be specified in the policies provided that they do not supercede the duties stated in these bylaws

#### Section 4 Conduct of Business

- a The Board shall conduct business in accordance with ARTICLE XII, unless otherwise stated in these bylaws and policies.
- b A quorum shall consist of three Board Members.
- c Board decisions on matters specifically requiring a membership vote shall not be binding unless ratified by the voting members at a subsequent chapter meeting.

#### Section 5 Vacancies on the Board

- a Should the Chair's seat become vacant for any reason prior to the end of the current term the Board of Directors shall elect an interim Chair to serve until the end of the term or until the originally elected Chair returns to office, whichever comes first.
- b Should the seat of a board member become vacant, for any reason, prior to the end of the current term, the Chair shall appoint an interim board member, with the advice and consent of the Board to serve until the end of the term or until the elected board member returns to office, whichever comes first.

#### Section 6 Tenure and Removal of Board Members

- a Tenure of board members shall be for one (1) year.
- b At its discretion the Board may appoint an assistant(s) to any board member.
- c If a board member is unable to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of his/her board position, she/she will be expected to resign his/her office.
- d The Chair and all board members shall be limited to serving no more than three consecutive terms.
- e Any board member missing three consecutive meetings, at the discretion of the board, may have her seat vacated.

Article XII. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS:

Section 1 Calendar

- a The social year of Chi Lambda Epsilon shall be from January 1 through December 31 of the calendar year.
- b The business or fiscal year of Chi Lambda Epsilon shall be from January 1 through December 31 of the calendar year.
- c Chi Lambda Epsilon business shall be conducted during chapter meetings unless stated otherwise in these bylaws and policies as follows:
  - 1 Elections and referenda shall be decided by a simple majority vote of the members voting.
  - 2 The eligible voting members shall decide membership admission criteria, conduct, security, financial assessments and other matters having an impact on the membership provided such matters are consistent with these bylaws.
  - 3 The conduct of all business meetings shall follow Robert's Rules of Order, unless otherwise stated in these bylaws and policies.
  - 4 Inspection of Votes: On any question at which votes are taken, it shall be the right of all sides to provide a representative to confirm vote tallies.

Article XIII. AMENDMENTS OF BYLAWS:

- Section 1 The bylaws of Chi Lambda Epsilon may be amended as set forth herein, with the exception of ARTICLE XIII, ARTICLE XIV and ARTICLE XV.
- a All voting members must be advised in writing of any proposed amendments a minimum of twenty days prior to the meeting at which the matter is to be voted on.
  - b Each amendment to be made must be voted on independently.
  - c Members may vote in person or by mail, but voting shall be conducted during the business portion of a chapter meeting by secret ballot and tabulated by the Chair and another person as determined by members present.

d A two-thirds majority vote shall be required for any amendment to pass.

Section 2 Typographical or grammatical corrections will not be considered as amendments.

Article XIV. CONFORMITY WITH TRI-ESS BYLAWS AND POLICIES:

Section 1 Chi Lambda Epsilon Chapter being an affiliated chapter of Tri-Ess, any bylaw, policy or provision thereof which conflicts with any Tri-Ess bylaw or policy is hereby declared null and void.

Article XV. GENDER

Section 1 The use of the masculine shall assume the use of the feminine and the use of the feminine shall assume the use of the masculine.