

# National Leather Association - OKC

## Chapter Bylaws

### Preamble

The NLA-OKC (also referred to herein as "the association") is a chartered chapter of NLA-International. As such, it subscribes to the same Statement of Purpose as NLA-International and is a nonprofit, educational, social, political, and charitable organization.

### ARTICLE I. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Section A: To maintain our national/international communication, information, education and support network for all members of the Leather/BDSM/Fetish community.

Section B: To role model the power and pride of all adults who engage in Safe, Sane and Consensual sexual expression and encourage those who fight for decriminalization of all sexual acts between consenting adults.

Section C: To support individual and organized political activism, visibility and education in order to eradicate stereotypical beliefs, misconceptions and media misrepresentation about the Leather/BDSM/Fetish family in the community at large.

Section D: To continue providing, through publications, educational material and conferences, a forum for the sharing of knowledge, viewpoints and practices of a diverse network of people.

Section E: To promote the success and welfare of individuals, organizations, publications and businesses within our community; especially against threats to their freedom of expression, freedom of the press, rights to free association and right to equal protection under the law.

Section F: To welcome women, people of color, transgender/transsexuals, the deaf, the physically challenged and others who have traditionally been discriminated against or poorly represented within the Leather/BDSM/Fetish community.

Section G: To attend, promote and support fundraising for deserving defense funds, projects, and clubs, organizations, and/or charities, which have given direct service to the Leather/BDSM/Fetish community.

Section H: To continue preserving a record of our history, traditions and culture.

## ARTICLE II. NLA-OKC MEMBERSHIP

- A. Membership is open to any person 19 years old or older who is a member of NLA-International and who supports the Statement of Purpose.
- B. Persons who join will have all rights and privileges granted under the bylaws of NLA-International.
- C. Members will pay annual chapter dues and/or assessments in an amount determined by a vote of the membership. Any person not paying by the renewal date will lose membership privileges until his/her account is current.
- D. Local dues may be waived in instances of hardship by the Executive Council for a period of one year. Waivers will be reviewed annually.
- E. The records pertaining to Membership will be maintained according to the Policy and Procedure manual.
- F. Only current NLA-OKC members are eligible to make motions, vote, nominate members for office, hold office (at 21 years old or older), and receive NLA-OKC publications free of charge.
- G. Members may indicate on business cards, stationery, and in advertising their membership in NLA-OKC. They may not present themselves as spokespersons for the association unless the Executive Council, the bylaws, or a vote of the membership specifically authorizes them.
- H. Membership in NLA-OKC is confidential, and members names' will not be released, other than to officers of NLA-OKC and NLA-International, without the member's written approval.
- I. Members may resign by submitting a letter to the NLA-OKC secretary.
- J. Membership may be revoked for any action deemed inappropriate. The decision to revoke a membership will require approval of a two-thirds majority of the members voting, once the member's right to due process has been exercised.
- K. Revocation of membership in NLA-International will automatically result in a revocation of NLA-OKC membership.

### ARTICLE III. CONDUCT OF CHAPTER BUSINESS

- A. A public meeting, open to anyone of age 19 years or older, will be conducted monthly at a time and location to be determined by the Executive Council.
- B. Special meetings to address a single issue may be called by any two members of the Executive Council or by petition of twenty-five percent of the membership.
- C. Members will be notified of the time and place of all meetings at least one week in advance, preferably in writing. For special meetings, members will be notified of time and place at least thirty-six hours in advance, if possible.
- D. A quorum, consisting of at least two members of the Executive Council, will be necessary to conduct all meetings. In the instance that members of the Executive Council are members of the same household, the count for quorum will be increased by 1 for each such household. Any business may be conducted, with the exception of:
  - 1. Amendments to the Bylaws
  - 2. Amendments to the Policies and Procedures
  - 3. Election of Officers
  - 4. Any vote requiring a two-thirds majority for approval
- E. Unless specified elsewhere, issues will require a simple majority of members voting. Abstentions will be noted.
- F. The Executive Council or the Co-chairs will determine the agenda of all meetings.
- G. Minutes of all meetings will be made available for referral to any member. A copy of the approved minutes will be sent to NLA-International.
- H. Unless otherwise specified in these Bylaws, meetings will be conducted according to "Robert's Rules of Order", current revised edition.
- I. At any open meeting; guests may be asked to leave the room during discussion and voting on "sensitive" issues. A request that an issue be declared "sensitive" does not require a second. The issue will be debated and voted on before any other business is conducted.

#### ARTICLE IV. ADMINISTRATION OF NLA-OKC

- A. NLA-OKC shall be governed by these Bylaws and the Policies and Procedures Manual under the leadership of an Executive Council. The Executive Council will consist of two Co-Chairs, with gender parity observed when possible; a secretary; a treasurer; a historian and Members-At-Large, the number of which shall be determined according to the Policy and Procedure Manual; and the chairpersons of the standing committees.
- B. The Executive Council will be elected by the membership for one-year terms, with the exception of the Co-Chairs, who will serve two-year terms. Co-Chairs will serve staggered terms.
- C. Members may nominate candidates for office in May and June. Elections will be held at the public meeting in July.
- D. The newly elected officers will assume office at the first business meeting following elections.
- E. Should an office become vacant before the expiration of the term, nominations and elections for a replacement to fill the unexpired term will be made at the next public meeting.
- F. An officer may resign by submitting a written resignation to the Executive Council.
- G. Any officer, other than a member of the Executive Council, may be removed from office by a two-thirds majority of the voting members in accordance with the established policies and procedures.

#### ARTICLE V. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL DUTIES

- A. The Executive Council of NLA-OKC is responsible for the management, activities, and goals of the chapter as approved by the membership.
  - 1. The Executive Council will meet at least once monthly as announced at the public chapter meetings.
  - 2. Meetings of the Executive Council are open to all members and invited guests having business with NLA-OKC. The Executive Council may limit participation.

3. The Executive Council may approve expenditures of up to \$200.00, provided it does not exceed fifty percent of the available funds, without a vote of the members.
- B. Any member of the Executive Council may be removed from office by a three-fourths majority of the voting members in accordance with the established policies and procedures.
- C. Any board member who misses three meetings in a row will cause that position to be vacant and therefore the position will be deemed vacant and be filled at the earliest monthly business meeting.

#### ARTICLE VI. COMMITTEES

- A. The Executive Council may establish or dissolve any and all standing or ad hoc committees deemed appropriate.
- B. Committee membership shall be open to any current member of NLA-OKC on a voluntary basis, and at the discretion of the specific committee chair. Committee membership shall have no specified term limit. Committee members may resign by written or verbal notice to the specific committee chairperson.
- C. Standing Committees may include, but are not limited to, Membership, Program, Newsletter (*The Newsletter*), Social, Publicity, Fund-Raising, Sociopolitical Action, etc.
  1. Standing Committee Chairs shall be elected by the membership, in like manner as the Executive Council, specified in previous sections.
  2. Standing Committee Chairs shall be subject to all provisions specified for other Executive Council members, including qualifications, voting, and removal.
- D. Ad Hoc Committee Chairs shall be appointed by the Executive Council, and serve on a voluntary basis until such time as chairperson is removed by a majority vote of, or the committee is dissolved by, the Executive Council.

**Comment [A1]:** This has yet to be named.

#### ARTICLE VII. AMENDMENT PROCEDURES

- A. Proposed amendment(s)/revision(s) of the Bylaws will be filed with the Executive Council and presented at two consecutive public meetings. These will be published to the membership a minimum of thirty days prior to voting.

Amendment(s)/revision(s) of the Bylaws require the approval of two-thirds of members voting.

- B. Proposed amendment(s)/revision(s) of the Policies and Procedures Manual will be filed with the Executive Council and presented at the next public meeting. These will be published to the membership a minimum of thirty days prior to voting. Amendment(s)/revision(s) of the Policies and Procedures manual must receive the approval of a majority of the members voting.

#### ARTICLE VIII. INITIAL ESTABLISHMENT PROCEDURES

- A. These Bylaws will become operational with the approval of the Chapter Charter status by the Executive Council of NLA-International.
- B. Until such time of approval from the Executive Council of NLA-International, the officers of NLA-OKC shall serve in accordance with the procedures set forth herein and in the Policies and Procedures Manual.

#### ARTICLE IX. DISSOLUTION PROCEDURES

- A. Payment, or provision of payment of all liabilities of the chapter shall be made prior to any dissolution of the chapter.
- B. Disposal of all assets will be made in such a manner as to comply with any and all State and Federal statutes and regulations.
- C. Where possible, transfer of any assets shall be made to other not for profit organizations whose purpose is sympathetic to the NLA Statement of Purpose.

Revision History:

2-2-02 MCA Re-did Article 1 in accordance with the preable of these by-laws.

Late amended: July 2000 by-law amended by vote of members present

Article 5 section c:

Any board member who misses three meetings in a row will cause that postion to be deemed vacant and be filled at the earliest monthly business meeting by a vote of the membership present.

Article 4 Section a:

NLA-OKC shall be governed by these Bylaws and the Policies and Procedures Manual under the leadership of an Executive Council. The Executive Council will

consist of two Co-Chairs, with gender parity observed when possible; a secretary; a treasurer; a historian; **a chapter representative** and Members-At-Large, the number of which shall be determined according to the Policy and Procedure Manual; and the chairpersons of the standing committees.

**Comment [MCA2]:** Page: 7  
Added to bring by-laws in compliance with National By-Laws. See also Duties in Article 5 section A sub-4

Article 5 Section A sub-paragraph 4 (NEW):

4. The chapter representative provides representation of NLA-OKC at the NLA-I and conveys the will of NLA-I to the NLA-OKC Chapter. As such, s/he is a non-voting member of the executive council, but retains member voting rights.

6-9-02 mca: made spelling and punctuation corrections. All were minor.

Amended 5-02 regular meeting:

Article III section D:

D. A quorum, consisting of at least two members of the Executive Council, will be necessary to conduct all meetings. *In the instance that members of the Executive Council are members of the same household, the count for quorum will be increased by 1 for each such household.* Any business may be conducted, with the exception of:

5-19-04 mca: made changes for the following: age 21 changed to 19 for individual membership, retaining age 21 for office holders. In Article 2 section A and Article 3 section A. Retained age 21 in Article 2 section F. These changed voted on by the membership at the regular monthly meeting of March 04, and reviewed and agreed upon by the P&P committee 5/19/04.