

National Constitution of Gamma Phi Omega International Sorority Inc.

Preamble

Gamma Phi Omega International Sorority Incorporated is formulated to unite sisters in the principles of achieving academic excellence, serving the communities in which we live and learn, preserving the sacred bond of sisterhood among women, and uplifting and advancing a cultural awareness among Latinos and those in our global communities.

Article I - Name

The name of this organization is Gamma Phi Omega International Sorority, Incorporated, otherwise referred to in the Constitution, By-laws and other governing documents as “the Sorority.”

Article II - Purpose and Aims

The purpose of the Sorority shall be to promote the four goals:

- Academic Excellence - to motivate and stimulate academic achievement.
- Community Service - to provide service to the surrounding communities.
- Cultural Awareness - to unite women in the pursuit of appreciating the diverse Latino and other cultures.
- Sisterhood - to provide support and respect among each member in order to maintain an everlasting relationship.

Article III - Offices

Section 1 The principal office of the corporation in the State of Illinois shall be located in the State of Illinois. The corporation may have such other offices, either within or outside the State of Illinois, as the Sorority deems necessary.

Section 2 The Corporation shall have and continuously maintain in the State of Illinois a registered office and a registered agent whose office is identical with such registered office, as required by the Illinois Not-for-Profit Corporation Act. The registered office may be, but need not be, identical with the principal office in the State of Illinois. The address of the registered office may be changed from time to time as needed by the National Board of Directors.

Article IV - Membership

Section 1 Only female persons who strive for the promotion of the Sorority goals shall be eligible for membership in the Sorority.

Section 2 No woman shall be admitted to membership who is not now nor has not previously been a student in attendance at an accredited college or other institution of higher learning.

Section 3 No woman, who is otherwise eligible as a candidate for membership in the Sorority, shall be allowed into the intake process unless such candidate has received the favorable vote of the members of the Chapter, Colony, voting body, as well as approval by the Regional Director.

Section 4 The members of the Sorority shall hereafter be classified as Undergraduate and Alumna.

- A. Undergraduate members shall be all those who have gone through the membership intake process and are currently enrolled at their respective colleges or universities, or have not completed their academic career for any reason.
- B. Alumna members shall be those who have graduated from an accredited college or other institution of higher learning.

Section 5 Women who wish to become members and who have been voted into the intake process, but have not been initiated in the Sorority shall be known as Associate Members.

Article V - Subordinate Bodies

Section 1 The subordinated bodies of the Sorority shall consist of Chapters, Colonies, Alumnae Chapters, and Alumnae Charters.

- A. Chapters shall be undergraduate organizations of the Sorority that are located at accredited colleges or institutions of higher learning and have been chartered and received Chapter status according to the By-laws of the Sorority, and are recognized by the National Board of Directors.
- B. Colonies shall be undergraduate organizations of the Sorority that are located at accredited colleges or institution of higher learning and have been chartered but not yet received Chapter status according to the By-laws of the Sorority, and are recognized by the National Board of Directors.
- C. Alumnae Chapters shall be city or regional organizations of the Sorority composed of Alumnae members from said area, regardless of Chapter, and recognized by the National Board of Directors.
- D. Alumnae Charters shall be city or regional organizations of the Sorority composed of Alumnae members from said area, regardless of Chapter, and recognized by the National Board of Directors.

Section 2 The naming of Sorority shall be as follows:

- A. Chapters shall be named according to the letters of the Greek alphabet used consecutively beginning with Alpha and with double combinations of the Greek alphabet in sequence thereafter (AA, AB, AΓ, etc.)
- B. Colonies shall be referred to as the Colony of the institution where it is located.
- C. Alumnae Chapters shall be named according to the letters of the Greek alphabet in double combination with Phi as the initial letter (ΦA, ΦB, ΦΓ, etc.)

- D. The names of inactive Chapters shall not be used again unless the Chapter shall be reestablished at the same institution.
- E. Omega Chapter is reserved for deceased sisters.

Section 3 Chapters, Colonies, and Alumnae Chapters may adopt and ratify such Constitutions, By-laws, and other regulations to insure proper conduct of said organization, provided they do not conflict with the Constitution, By-laws, Intake Manual, and Judicial Board, and other rules and regulations of the Sorority.

Article VI - Officers

Section 1 The National Board of Directors of the Sorority shall consist of a President, Vice President, Financial Director, and Recording Secretary. This shall be known as the Executive Committee. Other officers may be provided for in the By-laws of the Sorority.

Section 2 The officers of each Chapter, Colony, and Alumnae Chapter shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Recording Secretary, each of whom shall occupy the same relationship to the Chapter as the National Board of Directors occupy to the Sorority at large. Additional Chapter, Colony, and Alumnae Chapter officers may be provided for in the By-laws of each Chapter, Colony, and Alumnae Chapter.

Article VII - Government

Section 1 The supreme governing body of the Sorority shall be known as the National Board of Directors.

Section 2 The National Board will meet at least once a quarter to:

- A. Administer all rules, regulations, and policies of the Sorority as set forth in this Constitution and By-laws.
- B. Manage the financial affairs of the Sorority within the plans and budget.
- C. Exercise authority over the financial management of all Chapters, Charters, and Colonies.
- D. Adopt the annual audit.
- E. Establish, maintain, and authorize all major expenditures relative to its structure and facilities.
- F. Approve the intake of individual qualified women to membership and initiation to the Sorority.
- G. Authorize and approve content of handbooks, manuals, and other national publications.
- H. Determine the time and location of the Annual Conference and seminars and approve plans and arrangements.
- I. Have the power to remove from office any member of the National Board of Directors or any appointed officer with a two-thirds vote for cause.
- J. Fill vacancies on the National Board of Directors with a pro-tem position appointment by the President. Appointment shall be approved by two-thirds vote of the National Board of Directors.
- K. Approve the chartering of new Chapters and Alumnae Chapters.

- L. Develop and coordinate the public relations program of the Sorority and reserve the right to oversee activities in the area of Sorority promotion.
- M. Enact all necessary rules and regulations governing the operation of the Sorority, its Chapters, Colonies, and Alumnae Chapters and the conduct of its members.
- N. Adopt standing rules as necessary to define, clarify, or implement sorority policies.

Section 3 The National Board and its supplemental Judicial Board, when deemed necessary, shall be the final court of appeals for the settlement of all disputes arising between members, Chapters, Colonies, Alumnae Chapters and Officers of the Sorority.

Article VIII - Charters

Section 1 Only the National Board of Directors of the Sorority will be able to assign and recognize new charters.

Section 2 Core groups must pass a three-fourths vote by the National Board to begin the intake process.

Section 3 Alumnae Chapters must be approved by a majority vote of the National Board of Directors.

Section 4 In the event any Chapter, Colony, or Alumnae Chapter takes action which is in violation of the Constitution, By-laws, Judicial Board, and Risk Management Policy of the Sorority, or detrimental to the best interest of the Sorority, the National Board of Directors shall take such action as is necessary, including suspension of the Chapter, Colony, or Alumnae Chapter, and/or revocation of the Charter, pending due process at a National Judicial Board Hearing. Charges must be submitted within 30 days; if not, the suspension will be expunged. Due to exigent circumstances, the Vice-President has the discretion to extend the time period to submit charges.

Section 5 If a Chapter, Colony, or Alumnae Chapter no longer exists due to dissolution of a chapter, colony, or alumnae chapter, such group shall immediately:

- A. Pay all financial obligations and make a final accounting to the Financial Director of the National Board of Directors.
- B. Turn over any remaining money assets to the National Board of Directors.
- C. Turn in all charter records, Ritual and other ceremonial equipment to the Vice President of the National Board of Directors.
- D. Disclaim in writing the further use of any part of the name of the Sorority.
- E. Cease all activities, including but not limited to organizing events, promotions, and recruitment on behalf of and in affiliation with the Sorority.

Section 6 The National Board of Directors shall no longer assume liability or responsibility for any actions taken by any member from a Chapter that has been withdrawn.

Section 7 Any Chapter or Colony whose charter was withdrawn, due to actions of said organization, that desired reinstatement shall proceed as would the establishment of new charters.

Article IX - Emblems

Section 1 The Sorority badge to be worn by all initiated members shall be a swan of gold.

Section 2 The Coat of Arms of the Sorority is described as follows: behind crest on each side shall be twin columns with three Fire and Ice Roses wrapped around each. The crest shall be divided into four quadrants by crossed red and white roses. In top quadrant shall be a swan; in the right quadrant shall be a wine goblet with grapes. In bottom quadrant shall be a sun rising out of water and in the left quadrant shall be a quill and paper. Underneath crest overlapping both columns shall be a banner with the words Gamma Phi Omega and the year 1991.

Section 3 The colors of the Sorority shall be navy blue and maroon, teal and gold as auxiliary.

Section 4 The flower of the Sorority shall be the Fire and Ice Rose.

Section 5 The gemstone of the Sorority shall be a Star Sapphire.

Article X - By-laws

By-laws, not contained within this Constitution, may be adopted by the members of the Sorority at the Annual Conference, or by order of the National Board, by a majority vote of those present and voting in either case. By-laws may be amended or repealed in the same manner. Any such action so taken by the National Board of Directors shall remain in force only until the next Annual Conference unless the action is then ratified and accepted by the members of the Sorority.

Article XI - Amendments

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at the Annual Conference, or by unanimous vote of the National Board of Directors, but any such amendment so made by the National Board shall remain in force only until the next Annual Conference, unless the action is then ratified by the members of the Sorority.

Article XII – Indemnification

Section 1 The Sorority shall indemnify each of its Officers and Directors against expenses actually and necessarily incurred by them in connection with the defense or settlement of any action, suit or proceeding in which they are made parties, by reason of being or having been an Officer or Director, except in relation to matters as to which any such Officer or Director shall be adjudged in such action, suit or proceeding to be liable for willful misconduct in the performance of her duty and to such matters as shall be settled by agreement predicated on the existence of

such liability. Such right of indemnification shall not be deemed exclusive of any right to which they may be entitled under any other By-laws, statute, agreement or otherwise.

Section 2 The Board shall have the authority to purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any and all of its present and former Officers and Directors, against any liability or settlement based on assured liability incurred by them by reason of being or having been Officers or Directors of the Sorority.

Article XIII – Dissolution

In the event of the dissolution or liquidation of the Sorority, and after payment of all just debts and liabilities, a joint committee made up of three (3) Directors of the Board, selected by the standing Board, shall recommend to the Board a fair and just settlement of all remaining assets subject to the approval of the Board if the proposed distributes then meets the requirements as to tax-exempt status set forth in the provision of the Articles of Incorporation concerning dissolution, or if not, to such other organizations described in said provision

Amendments

Section	Title	Revision Date	Page #	Brief Description of Changes Made
Article III	Offices	4/14/12	1	Changed the location for our articles of incorporation.
Article V- Section 1	Subordinate Bodies	4/14/12	2	Added Alumna Chapters
Article V- Section 2	Naming of subordinate bodies	4/14/12	2-3	Remove clubs from bylaws and include the reservation of Omega Chapter
Article VII- Section 2	Government	4/14/12	3	Include that NBOD has fiscal authority over all chapters/colonies, and clarify that NBOD charters all chapters
Article VIII- Section 5	Charters	4/14/12	4	Clarify the wording
Article VIII- Section 7	Charters	4/14/12	4	Remove entire section regarding revoking a charter.
Article VIII- Section 7	Charters	4/14/12	4	Reinstating a charter.
Article IX- Section 1	Emblems	4/14/12	5	Clarify our sorority badge is no longer made of pure 14 caret gold.
Amendments		4/14/12	7	Included amendment grid
Header/Footer		4/14/12	All	Included header/footer