

Governing Laws and the Bylaws of the Order of Constantine

Governing Laws

The Constitution and Statutes & Executive Committee Regulations of the Sigma Chi Fraternity as adopted July, 1975 states:

Honors to Members and Chapters:

8.02 There shall be an Order of Constantine, composed of alumni members of the Fraternity selected on the basis of long and distinguished service to Sigma Chi. The Grand Consul on assuming his office shall become a member of the Order of Constantine. The selection of members of the Order shall be under the direction of a committee of seven members of the Order of Constantine, at least three of whom shall be members of the Grand Council. This committee shall be appointed by the President of the Order of Constantine.

BYLAWS (1993) OF THE ORDER OF CONSTANTINE OF SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY LAST AMENDED JUNE 26, 2021

The Order of Constantine was formed in 1948 by a resolution of the 47th Grand Chapter held in Seattle, Washington. It is a self-perpetuating order whose members are selected from alumni of Sigma Chi Fraternity.

1. PURPOSE

1.1. The purpose of the Order of Constantine is to recognize and honor certain chosen members of Sigma Chi Fraternity who have devoted long and distinguished service as alumni to the Fraternity and to afford them special recognition as an acknowledgment of their dedication and service. The members of the Order are known as Constantine Sigs.

2. OFFICERS

2.1. There shall be three officers of the Order, namely:

- * President
- * Vice President
- * Secretary/Treasurer

2.2. The President shall preside over all meetings of the Order at which he is in attendance and shall make such appointments and initiate such actions as are specified herein.

2.3. The Vice President shall perform the functions of the President in his absence or otherwise at his request.

2.4. The Secretary/Treasurer shall prepare minutes of all meetings of the Order, collect and disburse funds as required for the operation of the Order, solicit nominations for membership in the Order, assemble files for consideration of candidates for membership in the Order and inform members of their selection.

2.5. These three officers shall constitute an executive committee which shall conduct the affairs of the Order between meetings.

3. TERM OF OFFICE

3.1. The President shall be elected at a meeting of the Order, held contemporaneously with a Grand Chapter, and shall serve until the following Grand Chapter at which time he shall not be a candidate for re-election. In the event of the death of the President or his inability to serve, the Vice President shall succeed to the Presidency. In the event that the President assumed that office in mid-term, he shall be eligible to be elected to a full term at the following Grand Chapter.

3.2. The Vice President shall be elected at a meeting of the Order held in conjunction with a Grand Chapter, and shall serve until the following Grand Chapter at which time he would normally but not necessarily succeed as President. He shall not be a candidate for reelection as Vice President except that, if he were appointed Vice President in mid-term he shall be eligible to be elected to a full term at the following Grand Chapter.

3.3. The Secretary/Treasurer shall be elected at a meeting of the Order, held in conjunction with a Grand Chapter, and shall serve until the following Grand Chapter at which time he shall be eligible for re-election with no limit to the number of terms which he may serve.

3.4. In the event of the death or inability of the Vice President or the Secretary/Treasurer to serve in their respective offices, the President in consultation with the Nominating Committee shall appoint a Vice President or Secretary/Treasurer as the case may be.

4. MEETINGS OF THE ORDER

4.1. Contemporaneously with each Grand Chapter there shall be a meeting of the members of the Order who are in attendance. At such meeting the Nominating Committee shall present its report and the members in attendance shall elect the new officers of the Order and shall conduct any other business which is properly brought before the meeting.

4.2. It is desirable that at each Grand Chapter and Grand Council there be an informal reception in order to welcome new members of the Order.

5. DECISIONS OF THE MEMBERSHIP

5.1 All decisions of the membership shall be effective following a simple majority vote of those in attendance at a meeting of the Order held contemporaneously with a Grand Chapter unless such decisions are specified herein as ones requiring Special Approval.

5.2. Certain matters as specified herein are of such significance to the Order that decisions on such matters shall only be effective following Special Approval of the membership. Notice of a motion relating to such a matter shall be sent by the Secretary/Treasurer to all known members of the Order not later than sixty days prior to the deadline date for votes to be submitted and counted. The notice shall include the proposed motion, the rationale for the motion and a simple ballot which members may return to the Secretary/Treasurer prior to such deadline date. For a decision on such matter to be effective an affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds of those who have voted shall be required.

6. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

6.1. No later than ninety days prior to each Grand Chapter the President shall appoint a Nominating Committee consisting of three members of the Order who, in his judgment, are representative of the members of the Order and shall designate one of them as Chairman. The Nominating Committee shall propose one candidate for each of the elected offices at the next meeting of the Order, held in conjunction with a Grand Chapter. The Nominating Committee shall have satisfied itself as to the willingness of each of the proposed candidates to serve in the office for which he is nominated.

6.2. At the meeting of the Order, held in conjunction with a Grand Chapter, the Chairman of the Nominating Committee or his designate shall present the report of the Nominating Committee.

6.3. The President shall invite further nominations from the floor prior to the election of each officer. Election of officers shall be by simple majority of the members present and the officers shall be elected in the following sequence: President Vice President Secretary/Treasurer

6.4. A candidate who is not elected for an office shall be eligible for nomination for any of the offices for which an election has not yet occurred.

7. APPOINTMENT OF SELECTION COMMITTEE

7.1. Within ninety (90) days of his election, the President of the Order shall appoint a Selection Committee, which shall serve until the following Grand Chapter. The Selection Committee shall be responsible for selecting the candidates for induction into the Order each year, which normally will occur at the next Grand Council and/or Grand Chapter.

The Selection Committee shall consist of no less than seven (7) members of the Order and it shall have no more than eleven (11) members of the Order. Committee membership shall include the current President, Immediate Past President, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer of the Order. At least one member of the Committee shall be from Canada. At least two (2) members of the Committee shall be members of the current Grand Council, one of them being the then current Grand Consul of the Fraternity or a current Grand Officer or past Grand Consul selected by him. In the event the Grand Consul designates a different member, he will still be included on all Selection Committee communications and invited to all meetings.

8. NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES

8.1. Candidates for membership in the Order may be nominated by any member of the Fraternity in good standing. A completed nomination of the candidate in the prescribed form shall be submitted (go to Sigmachi.org to access the Order of Constantine nomination system).

8.2. In order for a candidate to be considered for membership, the Selection Committee shall require a completed nomination and a minimum of the four and a maximum of five letters of endorsement shall accompany the nomination. Each nomination must be supported by at least three current members of the Order, either as the nominator or with a letter of endorsement.

8.3. All nominations, endorsements and supporting documents shall be submitted to the Order of Constantine online nominating system at Sigmachi.org by the required due dates as published.

8.4. If a candidate, whose file is complete, has not been selected for membership in the Order during a period of three consecutive years, the Secretary/Treasurer shall request that the original nominator, or the endorsing brothers, update or arrange to have such nomination updated. If such update is not received by the next meeting of the Selection Committee, the Secretary/Treasurer shall return the nomination file to incomplete nomination file.

8.5. Due to the uncertainty of a candidate's selection for membership in the Order, he normally should not be informed of his nomination.

9. CANDIDATE SELECTION CRITERIA AND PROCESS

9.1. The Selection Committee shall select and notify members of each new class no later than March 1st.

9.2. The Committee shall consider all candidates whose nominations are complete, who satisfy the criteria set out below and shall select candidates who, in their opinion, have best served the Fraternity as alumni and who have "worn the White Cross in a manner the Seven Founders would have commended".

9.3. The Selection Committee normally shall consider only candidates who have been alumni for twenty or more years.

9.4. The Committee may select any number of candidates it considers qualified provided that the number of new members for induction in any one year should be no more than twenty-one.

9.5. The membership of the Order may authorize an increase or decrease in the authorized number by Special Approval of the membership as provided in Article 5.2 of these Bylaws.

9.6. There shall be no honorary or posthumous membership in the Order and the nomination file of any brother who passes into the Chapter Eternal prior to his selection shall be withdrawn. Any brother who passes into the Chapter Eternal after his selection but prior to his induction shall, however, be recorded as a member of the Order.

10. FINANCES

10.1. It is intended that the Order shall be financially self-sustaining. To this end, the Secretary/Treasurer is authorized to request, from time to time, a nominal contribution from the members of the Order in order to defray incidental expenses.

10.2. Neither the officers of the Order nor the members of the Selection Committee shall be entitled to any reimbursement for costs incurred in traveling to or attending meetings relating to the Order unless they are otherwise entitled by virtue of an office in the Fraternity which they hold.

10.3. Members are encouraged to designate a percentage of gifts made to the Sigma Chi Foundation to benefit the Order of Constantine Leadership Fund (#4072). Such contributions shall help fund those Leadership projects of the Fraternity deemed appropriate by the current officers of the Order.

11. INDUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

11.1. Candidates selected for membership in the Order are deemed to be members following their selection.

11.2. The Grand Consul, if not already a member, shall become a member of the Order on assuming his office.

11.3. Induction of new members to the Order may occur at a Grand Chapter, an International Fraternity hosted recognition event, or at a local ceremony of the member's choosing. It will be conducted in a manner that will ensure that the honor being conferred upon the new members will receive the greatest possible recognition from the attendees.

11.4. The induction ceremony will be conducted by the President or, in the event of his inability to be present, his designate who shall be another member of the Order. The ceremony may take the form deemed most appropriate by the President but shall include the presentation of the Membership Certificate, Lapel Pin, and any other recognition materials.

11.5 Following the induction of a new member, The Secretary/Treasurer shall cause a copy of such new member's Certificate of Membership to be forwarded to the undergraduate chapter by which he was initiated in order that it can be placed on display.

12. AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS

12.1. These bylaws may be amended by Special Approval of the membership as provided in Article 5.2 of these Bylaws.

Originally Compiled: D.A. McWhirter B.Ω.'58 June,1993

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