

The Mattachine Society of Washington

101, 912 ...

CONSTITUTION

BY-LAWS

POLICY ADOPTION PROCEDURES

POLICIES

C O N S T I T U T I O N

of

THE MATTACHINE SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

S y n o p s i s

ARTICLE 1, Name

ARTICLE 2, Purpose

Purposes; Not a social group; Cooperation with other minority groups.

ARTICLE 3, Members and Rights

Who may become a member; Procedure for joining; Probationary, full, and other classes of members; Pseudonyms; Names in Minutes and at meetings; Membership records, protection and use; Expulsion.

ARTICLE 4, Officers

Designation; Term of office; Powers and duties; Committees; Removal.

ARTICLE 5, The Executive Board

Authority; Composition; Meetings; Voting; Quorum; Overrule.

ARTICLE 6, Elections and Other Balloting

Nominations; Special elections; Manner and form of elections; Counting of ballots.

ARTICLE 7, Meetings

Regular; Special; Frequency; Notice; Quorum; Voting; Attendance of non-members.

ARTICLE 8, Dues and Finances

Establishment; Refund; Delinquency; Disbursement; Audit.

ARTICLE 9, Parliamentary Authority

Designation.

ARTICLE 10, By-laws

Relationship to Constitution; Proposal, adoption, and amendment.

ARTICLE 11, Amendment

Proposal; Consideration; Adoption.

C O N S T I T U T I O N

of

THE MATTACHINE SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

ARTICLE 1, Name

This organization shall be known as The Mattachine Society of Washington.

ARTICLE 2, Purpose

Section 1. It is the purpose of this organization to act by any lawful means

(1) To secure for homosexuals the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, as proclaimed for all men by the Declaration of Independence, and to secure for homosexuals the basic rights and liberties established by the word and the spirit of the Constitution of the United States of America;

(2) To equalize the status and position of the homosexual with the status and position of the heterosexual by achieving equality under the law, equality of opportunity, and equality in the society of his fellow men, and by eliminating adverse prejudice, both private and official;

(3) To secure for the homosexual the right, as a human being, to develop and achieve his full potential and dignity, and the right, as a citizen, to make his maximum contribution to the society in which he lives;

(4) To inform and enlighten the public about homosexuals and homosexuality; and,

(5) To assist, protect, and counsel the homosexual in need.

Section 2. It is not a purpose of this organization to act as a social group or as an agency for personal introductions.

Section 3. This organization will cooperate with other minority organizations which are striving for the realization of full civil rights and liberties for all.

ARTICLE 3, Members and Rights

Section 1. All persons of good will, twenty-one years of age or over, who subscribe to the Purposes of this organization may become members.

Section 2. No person shall be denied membership because of sex, race, national origin, religious or political belief, or sexual orientation or preference.

Section 3. (a) An applicant for membership shall complete the application form required by the Executive Board and shall pay the membership application fee which may be required by a by-law. If a majority of the Executive Board shall approve the applicant, he shall become a probationary member of the organization for three months. At the end of this time, he shall automatically become a full member, unless the Executive Board, by a majority vote of its members, shall sooner terminate his membership in the organization.

(b) In addition to probationary and full members, there may be other classes of members, as shall be provided by by-law, but members in such other classes shall attend meetings of the organization and shall vote only if, and as, provided by by-law. Only full members are eligible to run for or vote for office.

(c) The Secretary shall destroy and dispose of each membership application, in such a manner that it will not be available to any other person, as soon as the applicant has been accepted as a probationary member and the necessary information has been entered on the membership records, or if rejected for probationary membership, as soon as that fact has been entered on the appropriate record.

Section 4. A person may apply for membership and be entered on the records under a pseudonym, but he must provide or arrange some practical means of mail communication.

Section 5. No last names shall be reported in the Minutes nor used in any meeting by any person. Persons with the same first name shall be distinguished by the addition of an initial or initials.

Section 6. No more than two sets of membership records shall be kept, and these shall be open only to the officers of the organization. Under no circumstances whatsoever shall the membership records or any information therein be disclosed to, or be available to, anyone else.

Section 7. Any member or group of members, desiring to communicate with other members outside of a meeting about organization business, may do so by presenting the communication in writing in sufficient copies with stamped envelopes to the Secretary or another officer. If that officer shall find that the communication is permitted by this Constitution, he personally shall address the envelopes and personally shall mail the communication. The communication shall go to every member.

Section 8. Any full member who is found not to subscribe to or support the Purposes of the organization, or who has breached the security of the organization, may be expelled from the organization by a two-thirds vote of the members voting by secret ballot after written notice to him of clear and specific reasons for the expulsion and a full hearing at a meeting of the organization, if he shall request a hearing.

ARTICLE 4, Officers

Section 1. The officers shall be a President, a Vice-president, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, who shall be elected at the regular meeting in January and shall serve from the adjournment of that meeting to the adjournment of the regular meeting in the next January, or until their successors shall have been elected, whichever event shall occur later.

Section 2. The officers of this organization and the other members of the Executive Board shall adopt and shall use pseudonyms when conducting the public affairs of the organization, except when the Executive Board shall find in a particular instance for a particular officer or member of the Executive Board that compelling personal, legal, or other circumstances require otherwise.

Section 3. (a) The President shall preside at meetings of the organization and of the Executive Board.

(b) The President shall appoint the members of, and designate the chairmen of, such committees as he may deem desirable to create or that the Executive Board or the membership may direct him to create. He shall ex officio be a member, without a vote, of all committees. Committees may be dissolved by action of the Executive Board. All committee actions are subject to Executive Board approval.

(c) The President shall appoint a temporary successor to fill any elective office which shall become vacant because the incumbent shall die, resign, or be unable to serve, the member so appointed to serve until a regular or special election has been held to fill the office.

(d) The President or his designee shall represent the organization wherever or whenever a single representative is needed or is appropriate, subject to such instructions as the Executive Board may deem necessary or desirable.

Section 4. The Vice-president shall act in place of the President, whenever the President is absent or unable to serve, for as long as such absence or inability may continue, and in the event of the President's death, resignation, or extended inability to serve, shall assume the office of President until the next regular election of President.

Section 5. The Secretary shall keep formal Minutes of all meetings of the organization and a summary memorandum of action taken at each meeting of the Executive Board, which summary memorandum shall be read by the Secretary to the members of the organization at the next regular meeting of the organization; shall keep all records of the organization except those specifically assigned to others; shall, in coordination with the other officers, with the Executive Board, and with the committee chairmen, conduct the correspondence of the organization; shall send out notices of meetings; and, shall perform such other duties as the Executive Board shall assign to him.

Section 6. (a) The Treasurer, subject to the direction of the Executive Board, shall be responsible for the safekeeping of the funds of the organization, shall keep necessary financial records, shall collect and record dues, assessments, and contributions, and shall make disbursements.

(b) The Treasurer shall make a financial report at the first regular meeting in January and in July, and, upon at least ten days notice, at whatever other times the members or the Executive Board may direct.

Section 7. An officer may be removed prior to the expiration of his term of office by a three-fourths vote of the members voting by secret ballot after written notice to him of clear and specific reasons for his removal and a full hearing at a meeting of the organization, if he shall request a hearing.

ARTICLE 5, The Executive Board

Section 1. The governing body of the Society shall be an Executive Board composed of the President, the Vice-president, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and three other members who shall be elected, one each, at the regular meeting in January, May, and September to serve respectively from the adjournment of the meeting in which elected to the adjournment of the regular meeting in January, May, or September one year later, or until a successor shall have been elected, whichever event shall occur later. In addition, the retiring President shall automatically become a full member of the Board for one year.

Section 2. The Executive Board shall meet at least once in each calendar month, and whenever the President or three members of the Board shall call a meeting.

Section 3. All members of the Executive Board shall be notified at least three days in advance of any meeting of the Board, but this advance notice may be omitted for a particular meeting if at least two-thirds of the members of the Board agree to the omission, and if all of the members, whenever possible, shall have been notified of the meeting.

Section 4. The Executive Board, by a majority vote of its members, may declare vacant the office of any member of the Board who fails, without adequate explanation to the Board, to attend three consecutive meetings of the Board of which he was properly notified.

Section 5. The Executive Board shall act by a majority vote of its members voting, except as this Constitution or the By-laws shall otherwise provide.

Section 6. A majority of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum of the Executive Board.

Section 7. Executive Board actions in matters not explicitly reserved to the Board may be overruled by a two-thirds vote of the members present at the next general meeting.

ARTICLE 6, Elections and Other Balloting

Section 1. Nominations of candidates for elective office shall be made from the floor at the regular meeting in the month preceeding the month in which the candidate elected shall assume office.

Section 2. A member may be reelected to office.

Section 3. The Executive Board, at its discretion, may call a special election by the members of the organization to fill a vacant elective office.

Section 4. (a) All elections shall be by preferential secret ballot in such form and in such manner as the Executive Board shall provide, and as shall ensure that each ballot is cast by a member entitled to vote, and that each member casts only one ballot for each office to be filled.

(b) Election shall be by a majority of the valid votes cast.

(c) In the event of a tie, there shall be a second, non-preferential mail ballot between the two tied candidates. In the event of a second tie, the decision shall be by the toss of a coin as shall be agreed between the two candidates.

Section 5. (a) The members shall be notified, at the time ballots are mailed to them for any purpose, of the time and place at which the ballots shall be counted. The time shall not be sooner than two weeks from the day the ballots are mailed to the members. Only full members are eligible to vote in a procedurally required referendum ballot.

(b) Any member, who so wishes, may be present and witness the count, and may examine, in the presence of others, the ballots cast.

(c) The Secretary shall preserve all of the ballots for at least two months after the count.

ARTICLE 7, Meetings

Section 1. Regular meetings of the organization shall be held as frequently as shall be provided by a by-law, but not less often than once in each calendar month.

Section 2. Special meetings of the organization may be called by the President, the Executive Board, or one-third of the members. The notice of a special meeting shall state the purpose of the meeting, and no action which does not pertain to the stated purpose shall be taken at the meeting.

Section 3. The members of the organization shall be notified in writing at least one week in advance of the time and place of a regular or special meeting.

Section 4. Ten per cent of the members, but not less than ten members, shall constitute a quorum for any meeting of the organization. If less than a quorum shall be present at a meeting, the members present shall take such action as may be necessary to obtain a quorum, but may act subject to ratification of their actions by the members at the next meeting at which there is a quorum.

Section 5. Action at any meeting shall be by a majority of the members voting, except as shall otherwise be provided by this Constitution or a by-law.

Section 6. No person who is not a member of the organization shall attend any meeting unless he shall be approved by at least three members of the Executive Board, and no member shall invite any person to attend any meeting without first obtaining this approval through the President or another member of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE 8, Dues and Finances

Section 1. Dues and any other financial assessment of the members shall be established by a by-law.

Section 2. Dues shall not be refunded except to

- (1) an applicant who was admitted to probationary membership and then was rejected for full membership, to the extent that he has paid dues beyond the month in which he was rejected for full membership, and
- (2) a full member, who has been expelled, to the extent that he has paid dues beyond the month in which he was expelled.

Section 3. A member who is delinquent in the payment of dues shall not vote or hold office, unless the Executive Board shall find extenuating circumstances, but shall continue to be notified of, and may participate in, meetings.

Section 4. (a) Any member who for three months does not pay his dues shall be notified in writing that he shall cease to be a member thirty days from the date of the notice unless before that time

- (1) he shall pay his dues to the date of the notice, or
- (2) the Executive Board shall find extenuating circumstances, in which event payment of dues by the member may be deferred by the Executive Board for not more than one year.

(b) A person whose membership is terminated for non-payment of dues may not reapply for membership sooner than one year from the day he ceased to be a member, unless he shall arrange with the Executive Board to pay his delinquent dues and the dues from the termination of his membership to the time he reapplies for membership.

Section 5. Disbursements of funds of the organization shall be made only with the approval of a majority of the Executive Board. The Executive Board shall be responsible for the conservation of the funds of the organization.

Section 6. All checks of the organization shall be signed by the President and by the Treasurer.

Section 7. The financial records of the organization shall be audited annually by a committee of three members appointed by the President with the approval of the Executive Board. No member of the Executive Board shall be appointed to the committee. The committee shall not have access to the names of the members of the organization. The committee shall report the results of its audit at the regular meeting in February.

ARTICLE 9, Parliamentary Authority

Robert's Rules of Order Revised shall be the parliamentary authority of this organization, except that where it differs from, or conflicts with, this Constitution or a by-law, this Constitution or the by-law shall prevail.

ARTICLE 10, By-laws

Section 1. This Constitution may be supplemented by by-laws, except that no by-law shall have force or effect insofar as it conflicts with this Constitution.

Section 2. A by-law or an amendment to a by-law shall be proposed by a majority of the Executive Board, or through the Executive Board by at least five percent of the members of the organization, shall be sent in writing to the members with the notice of the meeting at which the by-law or amendment shall be considered, and shall be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the members voting.

ARTICLE 11, Amendment

Section 1. Amendments to this Constitution shall be proposed by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Board, or through the Executive Board by at least ten percent of the members of the organization, and shall be sent to the members in writing with the notice of the meeting at which the amendments shall be considered.

Section 2. Amendments shall be adopted by a three-fourths vote of the members casting valid ballots in a referendum after consideration at a regular or special meeting. The referendum shall be by secret mail ballot in such form and in such manner as shall permit each member to vote for or against each separate proposed amendment, ensure that each ballot is cast by a member entitled to vote, and ensure that each member casts only one ballot in the referendum.

Section 3. "Consideration", as used in this Article, shall include all parliamentary action except tabling, postponing indefinitely, final adoption, or final rejection.

(As adopted August 27, 1963 and as amended through December 1967.)

B Y - L A W S

of

THE MATTACHINE SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

BY-LAW 1

Regular Meeting Time. The regular meeting of the organization shall be held at 8:00 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month, unless for any particular regular meeting the Executive Board or the members of the organization shall provide otherwise.

BY-LAW 2

Dues. Dues shall be eighteen dollars per year, payable at the rate of one dollar and fifty cents per calendar month, or fifteen dollars per year if paid in one sum, the year to begin with the first day of the calendar month in which the fifteen dollars is paid.

BY-LAW 3

Membership application fee. An applicant for membership shall pay one dollar as a membership application fee at the time he submits his application. If he is approved by the Executive Board to become a probationary member, his membership application fee shall be applied to his dues. If his application is not approved, his membership application fee shall be returned to him.

BY-LAW 4

Visitor's Fee. A visitor to any meeting of the organization shall pay a visitor's fee of one dollar, unless it shall be his first meeting or unless the Executive Board in any particular instance shall remit the fee.

BY-LAW 5

Associate members. (a) Persons eligible for membership who do not wish to become full members may apply for associate membership. After completion of the application form required by the Executive Board, such applicants may be admitted as associate members by vote of a majority of the Executive Board.

(b) Applicants for membership who reside beyond a fifty mile radius from the District of Columbia shall be admitted only as associate members. Probationary and full members who remove their residence beyond a fifty mile radius from the District of Columbia shall thereby automatically become associate members.

(c) Associate members shall not vote and may attend meetings of the organization only if approved by at least three members of the Executive Board, in the same manner as is required for non-members. Probationary and full members who become associate members may attend meetings without obtaining this approval.

(d) The dues of associate members shall be ten dollars per year, the year to begin with the first day of the calendar month in which the dues are paid. A probationary or full member whose dues are paid for a full year and who becomes an associate member before the expiration of the year shall have the portion of his dues for the unexpired part of his year as a full member credited to the dues due from him as an associate member.

(By-laws 1 - 4 as adopted August 27, 1963, By-law 5 as adopted February 6, 1964 and By-laws 1 - 5 as amended through December 1967.)

PROCEDURES FOR THE ADOPTION OF SOCIETY POLICY AND POSITION

The Mattachine Society of Washington

I. PROPOSAL

(a) Items of policy or position may take formal origin by:

1. Majority vote of the Executive Board.
2. Presentation to the Executive Board, in writing, by, or on behalf of any five members.

(b) Policies or positions proposed to the Executive Board by the membership must be processed by the Board, unless the Board decides that the proposal does not come within the category of formal Society policy or position.

II. DISCUSSION

(a) Proposed items of formal Society policy or position are to be submitted to the membership for discussion at a regular meeting.

(b) Notice of such discussion will be sent to the members at the time of their notification of the meeting.

III. ADOPTION

(a) Items of formal Society policy or position will be adopted upon vote of two-thirds of those casting votes in a referendum.

(b) Referendum ballots will be sent out no later than one week before the next general meeting after that at which the item of policy or position was discussed.

(c) Ballots will be counted and the results announced at the general meeting following the discussion.

(d) The policy or position will become effective upon announcement.

IV. AMENDMENT

Adopted policy or position may be amended by a two-thirds vote of those voting in a referendum ballot, after consideration at a general meeting, in accordance with procedures prescribed herein, except that no adopted policy or position may be amended within six months after its original adoption or subsequent amendment without the concurrence of the Executive Board.

V. IMPLEMENTATION

(a) All members and officers of the Society, in all dealings as such with others, will be bound by the policies and positions of the Society, except that this shall not restrict an expression of differing personal opinion or position if so designated.

(b) The Secretary shall maintain a separate record of all formal policies and positions, both those adopted and those not adopted, with minutes of the discussions and any other relevant material.

(as adopted November 5, 1964)

POLICIES OF
THE MATTACHINE SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

POLICY 1

The Mattachine Society of Washington takes the position that in absence of valid evidence to the contrary, homosexuality is not a sickness, disturbance, or other pathology in any sense, but is merely a preference, orientation, or propensity, on par with, and not different in kind from, heterosexuality. (as adopted March 4, 1965)

POLICY 2

The Mattachine Society of Washington takes the position that the publication of physique photographs bears no relevance to its conception of the homophile movement, and that therefore no such photographs will appear in the Society's publications, and no material officially issued by The Mattachine Society of Washington will be released to any publications in which such photographs appear on a regular basis. (as adopted June 3, 1965)

POLICY 3

The Mattachine Society of Washington takes the position that all organizations which have as their primary concern the improvement of the status of the homosexual by lawful means, deserve both in their formation and operation the fullest official cooperation and assistance of The Mattachine Society of Washington. (as adopted October 4, 1965)