

Document Title	National Leather Association - Dallas Chapter Bylaws	
Creation Date	July 7, 2009	
Status	Revised & Approved July 7, 2009	
Maintained By	Chapter Secretary	
Revision History		
Date	EC Approval Status	
04 APR 90	Approved	Draft
08 JAN 90	Amended	
02 APR 91	Amended	VI/F
24 MAY 91	Amended	IV/E
02 FEB 98	Amended	All
01 FEB 94	Revised & Approved	All
02 SEP 97	Revised	IV/A
02 SEP 97	Amended	VI
02 MAY 00	Amended	IV/B
03 MAR 04	Revised	All
01 JUN 04	Amended	IIA/B/H/K, IIIA/B, Appendix A
07 JUL 09	Revised & Approved	All

National Leather Association - Dallas Chapter Bylaws

PREAMBLE

National Leather Association - Dallas, also referred to herein as NLA-Dallas, 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

- A. To establish and maintain a communication, information, education, and support network for members of the Leather/BDSM/Fetish community in North Texas.
- B. To promote, with power and pride, the right of all adults to engage in safe, sane, and consensual sexual expression, including support for the decriminalization of such acts between consenting adults.
- C. To facilitate political activism, visibility, and education aimed at the eradication of stereotypical beliefs, misconceptions, and media misrepresentations about the Leather/BDSM/Fetish family in the community at large.
- D. To provide, through our publications, educational materials, and conferences, a forum for the sharing of knowledge, viewpoints, and practices of a diverse network of people.
- E. To build, strengthen, and defend individuals, organizations, publications, and businesses within our community against threats to our freedom of expression, freedom of the press, the right of free association, and the right to equal protection under the law.
- F. To develop an outreach to all men, women, people of color, transgendered persons, the physically challenged, and all others who have traditionally been discriminated against or who are poorly represented within the Leather/BDSM/Fetish community.

- G. To facilitate fund-raising for deserving projects, organizations, defense funds, and charities that have given direct service to the Leather/BDSM/Fetish community.
- H. To preserve a record of our history, traditions, and culture.

ARTICLE II. NLA-DALLAS MEMBERSHIP

- A. Membership is open to any person eighteen (18) years old or older who supports the Statement of Purpose. Membership in NLA: International is optional but not a prerequisite for membership in NLA-Dallas.
- B. Members will pay annual chapter dues and/or assessments in an amount determined by the vote of the membership. Persons not paying after the grace period described in the Policy and Procedures will lose their membership privileges until his or her account is current.
- C. The records pertaining to membership will be maintained according to the Policies and Procedures manual.
- D. Only current NLA-Dallas members are eligible to make motions, vote, nominate members for office, hold office, and receive NLA-Dallas publications free of charge.
- E. Members may indicate on business cards, stationery, and in advertising their membership in NLA-Dallas, through use of the NLA-Dallas logo and organization name. 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 to do so.
- F. Membership in NLA-Dallas is confidential and member's names will not be released, other than to officers of NLA-Dallas, and to officers of NLA-International, without the member's written approval.
- G. Members may resign by submitting a letter to the NLA-Dallas Secretary.
- H. Membership may be revoked for any action deemed inconsistent with the purpose of NLA-Dallas, according to the process described in the Policy and Procedures.

ARTICLE III. CONDUCT OF CHAPTER BUSINESS

- A. The fiscal year shall begin on the first (1st) day of August and end on the thirty-first (31st) day of July.
- B. A public meeting, open to anyone of legal age, will be conducted monthly at a time and place to be determined by the Executive Council.
- C. Special meetings to address a single issue may be called by any two (2) members of the Executive Council or by petition of twenty-five percent (25%) of the membership.
- D. Members will be notified of the time and place of all meetings at least one (1) week in advance, preferably in writing. If possible, members will be notified of the time and place of special meetings at least thirty-six (36) hours in advance.
- E. A quorum, consisting of two-thirds (2/3) of the Executive Council, will be necessary to conduct all EC meetings. For general meetings, a quorum shall be 10% of membership plus 2 EC members. At either meeting, a quorum is required for:
 - 1. Amendments to the Bylaws.
 - 2. Amendments to the Policies and Procedures.
 - 3. Election of Officers.
 - 4. Any vote requiring a two-thirds (2/3) majority for approval.
- F. Unless specified elsewhere, issues will require a simple majority of members voting. Abstentions will be noted.
- G. The Executive Council or the Co-Chairs will determine the agenda of all meetings.
- H. Minutes of all meetings will be made available for referral to any member who might request them from an Executive Council member.
- I. Unless specified otherwise in these Bylaws, meetings will be conducted according to “Roberts Rules of Order,” current revised edition.
- J. At any 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-DALLAS

- A. NLA-Dallas shall be governed by these Bylaws and the Policies and Procedures manual under the leadership of an Executive Council.
- B. The Executive Council shall consist of two Co-Chairs, with gender parity observed when possible; a Secretary; a Treasurer; Members-at-Large, the number of which shall be determined according to the Policies and Procedures manual; and the Chairpersons of the standing committees.
- C. The Executive Council will be elected by the membership for two (2)-year terms. Co-Chairs will serve staggered terms. The Secretary, Social Chair, and Membership Chair will be elected in odd numbered years. The Treasurer, Marketing and Public Relations Chair, Program Chair, and NLA-International Representative will be elected in even numbered years. The Member-At-Large will be elected on a yearly basis.
- D. To qualify as a nominee seeking the office of Co-Chair one must have been a member in good standing of the chapter for at least one (1) year prior to the month Members may nominate candidates for office in May and June. Elections will be held at the public meeting in July.
- E. The newly elected officers will assume office at the first businesses meeting following elections.
- F. Should an office become vacant before the expiration of its term, with at least three (3) months of the term remaining, nominations and elections to fill the unexpired term will be made at the next general meeting. If less than three (3) months of the term remain, the EC may elect to leave the position vacant.
- G. An officer may resign by submitting a written resignation to the Executive Council.
- H. Any officer, other than a member of the Executive Council, may be removed from office by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the voting members in accordance with the established Policies and Procedures.
- I. Any member of the Executive Council may be removed from office by a three-fourths (3/4) majority of the members for behavior inconsistent with the statement of purpose of NLAI and NLA-Dallas, or for failure to discharge the duties of the office. Procedures will be in accordance with the Policies and Procedures.

ARTICLE V. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL DUTIES

A. The Executive Council of NLA-Dallas 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 via e-mail, except in December.
2. Meetings of the Executive Council are open to all members and invited guests having business with NLA-Dallas. The Executive Council may limit participation of visitors. The Executive Council may approve by majority vote expenditures of up to two hundred dollars (\$200.00) without a vote of the membership, provided it does not exceed fifty percent (50%) of the available funds. Expenditures above this limit must be approved by majority vote at the next General Meeting.
3. All motions approved by the Executive Council must be recorded in the minutes and reported at the next General Meeting.

ARTICLE VI. COMMITTEES

A. The Executive Council may establish or dissolve any and all standing or ad-hoc committees deemed appropriate. Committee membership shall be open to any current member in good standing of NLA-Dallas 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. Standing Committees are specified in the Policy and Procedures.

1. Standing Committee Chairs shall be elected by the membership, in like manner as the Executive Council, specified above in Article IV, sections B-E.
2. Standing Committee Chairs shall be subject to all Bylaws and Policies and Procedures for all other Executive Council members, including qualifications, voting, and removal.

- B. Ad-Hoc Committee Chairs shall be appointed by the Executive Council, and serve on a voluntary basis until such time as the chairperson is removed by a majority vote of, or the committee is dissolved by, the Executive Council.

ARTICLE VII. AMENDMENT PROCEDURES

- A. Proposed amendment(s) and/or revision(s) of the Bylaws will be filed with the Executive Council and presented at two (2) consecutive general meetings. These will be published to the membership a minimum of thirty (30) days prior to voting. Amendment(s) and/or revision(s) of the Bylaws require the approval of two-thirds (2/3) of members voting at a general meeting

ARTICLE VIII. DISSOLUTION PROCEDURES

- A. Dissolution of the Chapter shall be by 2/3 vote of the general membership attending a general meeting.
- B. Payment or provision of payment of all liabilities of the chapter shall be made prior to any dissolution of the chapter.
- C. Disposal of all assets will be made in such a manner as to comply with any and all State and Federal statues and regulations.
- D. Where possible, transfer of any assets shall be made to other not for profit organizations whose purpose is sympathetic to the NLA-Dallas Statement of Purpose.