

BY-LAWS OF THE WASHINGTON STATE STONEWALL DEMOCRATS

(Draft 11/2/05)

Preamble

We, the Washington State Stonewall Democrats, in order to stimulate in GLBTQ and allied people an active interest in governmental affairs and promote their involvement in the political process, to promote the acquisition of political power by the GLBTQ and Allies community, and to foster and perpetuate the ideals and principals of the highest degrees of justice and social welfare, do associate ourselves together and establish these bylaws.

Article I - Name

Section 1. This organization shall be called the Washington State Stonewall Democrats.

Article II - Membership

Section 1. Regular membership in the Washington State Stonewall Democrats shall be limited to persons who declare that they are Democrats, and who self-identify as Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning and Allies. No criterion other than party preference shall be an acceptable reason for exclusion from regular membership. For purposes of caucus membership, members may decline to affiliate themselves with the national Stonewall Democrats.

Section 2. Dues & Provisions

A. Regular voting members are required to declare they are a Democrat, reside in Washington State and must provide an address. Members are encouraged to provide a telephone number and e-mail address (if available).

B. Local Organizations have the right to request organizational dues at any level they wish, but must provide for waiver of dues in the case of financial hardship. No criterion other than party preference shall be an acceptable reason for exclusion from regular membership.

Section 3. The Washington State Stonewall Democrats, in keeping with the ideals of equal participation, shall endeavor to increase the membership of transgender persons, women and diverse populations.

Article III – Officers

Section 1. Officers – Defined

A. The officers of this organization defined in Section 2 of this Article shall be elected every other year at the state convention and shall serve until the adjournment of the next state convention, unless otherwise indicated in this Section.

B. The appointed officers of this organization defined in Section 3 of this Article shall be nominated and confirmed by the General Board, and shall serve until the adjournment of

the next state convention, or until a successor is confirmed by the General Board, whichever occurs first.

Section 2. Elected Officers

A. President: Shall be the chief administrative officer of the Washington State Stonewall Democrats, shall direct the implementation of policies adopted and authorized by the organization, shall chair the General Board, the Steering Committee, and the External Relations Committee, shall represent the state organization in public, and report on his or her activities at each General Board meeting.

1. The President shall convene and conduct all meetings of the organization, except as provided for otherwise in these bylaws.
2. The President shall draft and present the agenda for each meeting/convention to the Executive Board for approval.
3. Ad hoc committees and Special committees shall be appointed by the President and approved by a simple majority of the Executive Board. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees except for the Election committee.
4. The President shall appoint chairs to standing committees subject to approval by a simple majority of the Executive Board and excuse absences of officers at their regularly scheduled committee meetings.
5. The President shall appoint a Parliamentarian, Sergeant-at-Arms, and other officials as deemed necessary to administer meetings/conventions.
6. The President shall be the authorized spokesperson for the WSSDC.
7. The President shall authorize and approve expenditures within the approved budget limits.
8. The president shall sign Public Disclosure Commission documents as required.

B. Executive Vice President: Shall assist the President in the performance of the President's duties, shall serve as Vice-Chair of the General Board and the Steering Committee, shall chair the Endorsement Committee, and shall oversee the internal operations of the organization under the direction of the President.

C. Vice President of Membership: Shall be responsible for the support of existing chapters and expansion of new chapters, shall develop and promulgate membership policies for the state organization, and shall chair the Membership Committee.

D. Vice President of Political & Legislative Affairs: Shall direct the organization's involvement in political campaigns, shall direct legislative action and lobbying efforts on behalf of the organization, shall chair the Political & Legislative Affairs Committee, and shall be the vice-chair of the Endorsement Committee.

E. Vice President of Communications: Shall be responsible for maintaining all of the organization's electronic communications mechanisms, both print and electronic, shall

develop and implement strategies for increasing the visibility of the organization, shall serve as the Secretary of the General Board, Steering Committee and the organization, shall prepare the agenda for all General Board Meetings at the direction of the President, shall maintain all organizational files and records in a safe and orderly manner, and shall chair the Communications Committee.

F. Treasurer: Shall maintain records of all receipts and disbursements of funds of the organization in accordance with all local, state, and federal laws and regulations, shall report all financial activity at each General Board meeting, shall maintain the organization's membership database, including paid Stonewall Democrats membership, and shall coordinate record-keeping efforts with the Vice President of Membership, shall keep all organizational financial records in balance, shall sign and file all Public Disclosure Commission reports as needed, shall serve as chief compliance officer for the organization, and shall be a member of the External Relations and the Steering Committees.

G. Washington State Democratic Central Committee Representative: Shall, in coordination with the President, encourage and direct participation of members in local and statewide senior Democratic Party activities, shall attend all meetings of the Washington State Democratic Central Committee or designate a proxy when attendance is not possible, shall represent the interests and further the goals and priorities of the organization on the State Committee, shall be the designated liaison to the State Party Chair, staff, and the elected members of the Washington State Democratic Central Committee, shall report upon the activities of the WSDCC to the General Board, and shall be a member of the External Relations and the Steering Committees .

H. Diversity Affairs Director: Shall recruit and encourage minorities (including, but not limited to, Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, and people with disabilities) to join and assume leadership positions in the organization, shall educate other members about issues of concern to diverse groups, and shall be a member of the Membership Committee.

I. Transgender Outreach Director: Shall recruit and encourage transgender people to join and assume leadership positions in the organization, shall educate other members about issues of concern to the transgender community, and shall be a member of the Membership Committee.

Section 3. Appointed Officers

A. Development Director: Shall be responsible for the raising of funds through personal, phone, electronic, and print solicitation, shall propose new revenue enhancement projects, shall coordinate fund-raising events, shall develop long-term fundraising goals and strategies to meet the financial needs of the organization, and shall be a member of the External Relations Committee.

B. Eastern Regional Organizer: Shall serve as regional leader and coordinator for Eastern Washington, which includes the following counties: Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, and Whitman; shall recruit leaders for, assist in the formation of, and actively foster the development of chapters in the designated counties and at schools within those counties, shall report to the Vice President of Membership, and shall be a member of the Membership Committee.

C. Central Regional Organizer: Shall serve as regional leader and coordinator for Central Washington, which includes the following counties: Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Grant, Kittitas, Klickitat, Okanogan, and Yakima; shall recruit leaders for, assist in the formation of, and actively foster the development of chapters in the designated counties and at schools within those counties, shall report to the Vice President of Membership, and shall be a member of the Membership Committee.

D. Southwestern Regional Organizer: Shall serve as regional leader and coordinator for Southwest Washington, which includes the following counties: Clark, Cowlitz, Lewis, Pacific, Skamania, southern Thurston, and Wahkiakum; shall recruit leaders for, assist in the formation of, and actively foster the development of chapters in the designated counties and at schools within those counties, shall report to the Vice President of Membership, and shall be a member of the Membership Committee.

E. Northwestern Regional Organizer: Shall serve as regional leader and coordinator for Northwest Washington, which includes the following counties: Island, San Juan, Snohomish, and Whatcom; shall recruit leaders for, assist in the formation of, and actively foster the development of chapters in the designated counties and at schools within those counties, shall report to the Vice President of Membership, and shall be a member of the Membership Committee.

E. Puget Regional Organizer: Shall serve as regional leader and coordinator for the central Puget Sound, which includes the following counties: King, Pierce (except that portion north of the Narrows Bridge), North Thurston; shall recruit leaders for, assist in the formation of, and actively foster the development of chapters in the designated counties and at schools within those counties, shall report to the Vice President of Membership, and shall be a member of the Membership Committee.

F. Peninsula Regional Coordinator: Shall serve as regional leader and coordinator for the Olympic and Kitsap Peninsula which includes the following counties; Clallam, Jefferson, Grays Harbor, Kitsap, Mason, and the portion of Pierce north of the Narrows Bridge; shall recruit leaders for, assist in the formation of, and actively foster the development of chapters in the designated counties and at schools within those counties, shall report to the Vice President of Membership, and shall be a member of the Membership Committee.

G. Federal Legislative & Political Director: Shall be responsible for the organization's federal legislative involvement and action on the federal level including federal campaigns targeting, state-wide campaign invasions, issue awareness and legislative advocacy, shall serve as the liaison to all federal elected officials, campaigns and their respective offices, shall report to the Vice President of Political & Legislative Affairs, and shall be a member of the Political & Legislative Affairs Committee.

H. State Legislative & Political Director: Shall be responsible for all activity related to the organization's political involvement in state-wide and state legislative campaigns as well as issue awareness and legislative advocacy including campaign targeting and state-wide campaign invasions, shall serve as the liaison to all state-wide and state legislative campaigns and elected officials, legislators, and their respective offices, shall report to the Vice President of Political & Legislative Affairs, and shall be a member of the Political & Legislative Affairs Committee.

I. Technology Director: Shall be responsible for maintenance of the Washington State

Stonewall Democrats website, domain name(s) and electronic mailing lists, shall develop content in association with the Newsletter Editor for publication on the website, shall assist other officers in implementing technological solutions for the organization, shall report to the Vice President of Communication, and shall be a member of the Communications Committee.

J. Newsletter Editor: Shall be responsible for the layout and printing of Washington State Stonewall Democrats print and electronic newsletter, shall develop content in association with the Technology Director for publication in the newsletter, shall report to the Vice President of Communication, and shall be a member of the Communications Committee.

K. Press Secretary: Shall be responsible for creation and distribution of press releases to local, state-wide, and national media, shall develop a strategic plan for earning media attention, shall train equivalent chapter officers on media relations, shall report to the Vice President of Communication, and shall be a member of the Communications Committee.

L. Veterans Outreach Director: Shall recruit and encourage Veterans of the United States Armed Forces, including Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines, Navy, and National Guard from the various states to join and assume leadership positions in the organization, shall educate other members about issues of concern to the Veterans community, shall report to the Vice President of Membership, and shall be a member of the Membership Committee.

M. Community Organization Liaison: Shall meet with Officers and staff from organizations serving the LGBTQ community in Washington State with the goal of developing projects in common and facilitating communication about respective groups, their goals and their activities, shall report to the President and shall be a member of the External Affairs Committee.

Section 4. All officers shall perform any additional duties assigned by the President, their supervising Vice President if applicable, and by the General Board.

Section 5. A vacancy in the office of the President shall be filled by a vote of the General Board members at the meeting immediately following the announcement of the vacancy. In the interim, the Executive Vice President shall serve as President.

Section 6. Vacancies in all other offices shall be filled by nomination and confirmation by the General Board.

Section 7. The Office of Washington State Democratic Central Committee representative may be held concurrently by someone elected to another board office.

Section 8. If any office is not filled at the state convention, the position shall be treated as vacant and filled pursuant to Section 6.

Section 9. No more than 60% of the elected officers shall be of the same gender.

Section 10, The President and at least one Vice President shall reside on opposite sides of the Cascade Mountains.

Article IV - Local Organizations and Clubs

Section 1. The Washington State Stonewall Democrats shall be composed of local chapters or clubs with commonalities as defined in Article II. Local organizations shall be the primary organizational structure in the Washington State Stonewall Democrats.

Section 2. Local Clubs may apply for a charter with the General Board in accordance with the By-Laws. Local organization charters will expire at midnight on December 1 of each year. A representative from the chartering club must be present at the meeting where the charter is submitted, and provide sufficient documentation that an organizational and/or election meeting was properly held. Clubs whose charters expired in December 1 who re-charter at the subsequent General Board Meeting shall enjoy all voting rights and privileges upon approval of re-chartering. Other chartering clubs will not be allowed to cast a General Board vote until the meeting following their chartering.

Section 3. Charter applications must include the following:

A. The names, mailing addresses, and telephone numbers where available, of at least five (5) voting members of the Washington State Stonewall Democrats, as defined by Article II of the Bylaws, who are also eligible to be members of said district organization or club.

B. A district organization or club bylaws governing their activities, not in conflict with the By-Laws of the Washington State Stonewall Democrats, which provides for a specifically defined geographic territory or common basis for membership such as students attending a specific school, the establishment of officers and regular meetings of the district organization or club.

C. Proof that a properly held election and/or organizational meeting was held, as specified by Article IV, Section 2 of the Bylaws. This proof may include a combination of the following: Original sign-in sheet from said meeting, minutes from said meeting, original recorder's notes from said meeting, original written ballots from said meeting, copies of notices and dates of posting/mailing, etc.

Section 4. The General Board may approve the charter application at any regular or special meeting, provided said charter application is in compliance with the By-Laws.

Section 5. The General Board may revoke the charter of any district organization or club which fails to convene a general meeting during any twelve month period or which fails to uphold the requirements specified in the By-Laws of the Washington State Stonewall Democrats. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the General Board shall be required to revoke the charter of a district organization or club.

Section 6. Vacancies in the position of presiding officer of a local organization or club shall be filled by election of the membership of said organization. If an election is not conducted within forty-five (45) days of the announcement of a vacancy, the President may appoint a temporary presiding officer until such time as an election can be conducted.

Section 7. The presiding officers of any chartered district organization or club are subject to the removal provisions in Article VI.

Article V - Organizational Structure

Section 1. General Board – Powers & Duties

A. The principal power and decision-making authority of the organization between state conventions shall be vested in a General Board of the Washington State Stonewall Democrats.

B. The General Board shall set organizational policy as needed, especially in the following areas:

- (1) Oversight and approval of all activities of the organization;
- (2) Approval of expenditures by the organization, both specific, and discretionary;
- (3) Approval of recommendations for endorsement made by the Endorsement Committee;
- (4) Approval of charter requests by local organizations;
- (5) Removal of officers for just cause.

C. In all cases, the General Board shall act in accordance with the decisions and resolutions of the State Convention.

Section 2. General Board – Voting Membership

A. The voting membership of the General Board shall consist of:

- (1) All officers defined in Article III;
- (2) The presiding officers or duly-appointed representatives of any properly-chartered local organizations;
- (3) All Stonewall Democrats of America Pacific Region officers who reside full-time within the State of Washington, provided that persons eligible to vote pursuant to this clause may not proxy their vote; and
- (4) All members of the Stonewall Democrats of America Executive Committee who reside full-time within the State of Washington, provided that persons eligible to vote pursuant to this clause may not proxy their vote.

B. No member of the General Board shall be entitled to cast more than one vote by virtue of multiple offices or positions that are eligible for a vote.

C. Proxy votes may be used at meetings of the General Board under the following conditions:

- (1) If the proxied member has a vote pursuant to Section 2(A)(1), the proxy may only be carried by another state officer, and only if the proxied member is not present;
- (2) If the proxied member has a vote pursuant to Section 2(A)(2), the proxy may only be carried by a member of the same local organization;
- (3) General Board members may cast only one proxy vote in addition to his or her own vote;

(4) General Board members casting a proxy vote on behalf of an absent member must have a written and signed statement from the absent member granting permission for them to vote on the absent member's behalf.

(5) All proxy votes are subject to the approval of the General Board; and

(6) The Vice Chair of a properly chartered local organization may vote at General Board Meetings in the absence of their chair without holding a proxy from the absent member.

Section 3. General Board – Meetings & Other Provisions

A. The General Board shall meet at the call of the President at least once every quarter. These meetings shall, whenever possible, coincide in time and place with the meetings of the Washington State Democratic Central Committee.

B. Failure to convene a General Board meeting at least once every one hundred and twenty (120) days shall be considered an official act of resignation on the part of the President.

(1). Upon such de facto resignation, the Executive Vice President, either National Committee Representative, or any combination of three officers shall immediately put out a call to a General Board meeting, convening within the next fourteen days.

C. At least fourteen days' notice of a General Board meeting shall be sent to each member and shall include the date, time, agenda and specific location of the meeting.

D. A quorum of the General Board shall consist of either 2/3rds of the officers defined in Article III, (excluding those positions which are vacant), or 50% of the total membership of the General Board.

A. Any meeting at which a quorum is not present shall be deemed a meeting of the committee of the whole.

B. Decisions made by a committee of the whole meeting shall be non-binding and shall not be implemented until approved at the next official Executive Board meeting at which a quorum is present. Decisions made by a committee of the whole must be included in the notice of the next Executive Board meeting.

E. Official meetings of the General Board shall only be held on the premises of businesses open to minors.

F. The President shall widely disseminate meeting calls to all members of the organization via e-mail, list-serves, web sites and US mail..

G. All meetings of the General Board, Presidents' Council, and Standing Committees shall be open to any member of the organization in good standing, provided that each body may develop a process for entering into executive session. Any member attending such a meeting shall be entitled to speak if yielded to by a member of the body or if recognized by the chair.

Section 4. Presidents' Council

- A. The Presidents' Council shall be a forum for chapter presidents to share information, exchange ideas, and network.
- B. The Council shall be chaired by the state President and shall consist of the presiding officer from each properly chartered local organization.
- C. The Council shall not be vested with any decision-making power beyond that which may be delegated to it from time to time by the General Board.
- D. The Council shall meet quarterly in conjunction with meetings of the General Board.
- E. The Council shall elect from its membership one representative to the Steering Committee.

Section 5. Stonewall Caucus Delegation

- A. The Presidents Council, in tandem with the Executive Board, shall comprise the Stonewall Delegation. The Stonewall Delegation shall act as a nerve and communication center for GLBT interests in Washington State between the national, state and local level.
- B. Any duly elected member of the Washington State Democratic Central Committee who qualifies for membership according to Article 2, Section 1 shall be a member of the Stonewall Delegation if they so choose.
- C. The Stonewall Delegation shall represent the will of the membership at the Democratic Central Committee quarterly meetings, with one elected representative available to cast the caucus vote as a member of the WSD Central Committee whenever that body shall allow the delegation to vote.
- D. Any authority not specified by these bylaws shall fall to the Stonewall Delegation to coordinate or direct.

Section 6. If any officer fails to attend or send a proxy to two (2) consecutive General Board or Committee meetings without being excused, such action shall be considered an official act of resignation.

Section 7. Participation in General Board Meetings, Presidents Council Meeting and standing committee meetings Via Teleconferencing and Voice Over Internet Provider.

- A. Members may participate in said meetings via teleconference or VoIP technology.
- B. Teleconferencing or VoIP members shall count towards quorum and retain any and all voting rights.
- C. It is the responsibility of the meeting chair to ensure that proper arrangements have been made to allow for teleconferencing or VoIP, however, the General Board shall not be held liable for technical difficulties beyond their control.
- D. Policy regarding payment of teleconferencing or VoIP expenses shall be determined by

the General Board.

Article VI - Removal of Officers

Section 1. Grounds for Removal

The grounds for removal of an officer shall be misfeasance, malfeasance, or nonfeasance in the performance of his or her duties.

Section 2. The process for removal of an officer, either elected or appointed, shall be as follows:

- A. A motion for removal must be made at a regular or special meeting of the General Board. Charges demanding removal shall be referred to the General Board to ascertain, by majority vote, whether or not the charges are proper grounds for removal.
- B. If the General Board cannot determine by majority vote that the charges are proper grounds for removal; the charges shall be dropped and stricken from the record.
- C. Once the General Board has determined the charges before the body to be proper grounds for removal, a detailed statement of the charges shall be mailed to each member of the General Board at least fifteen (15) days prior to the next General Board meeting, which shall be held no more than sixty (60) days following the day charges were first brought before the Board.
- D. Both the state officer subject to removal charges and the parties calling for removal must be present at the General Board meeting at which removal is considered. The officer subject to removal must be given the opportunity to respond at or before the meeting at which removal is considered.
- E. Only General Board members in office before charges were brought before the General Board shall be eligible to vote on the motion for removal. A sixty percent (60%) affirmative vote of those present and eligible to vote shall be required for removal of an officer.

Article VII - Standing Committees

Section 1. Endorsement Committee

- A. The Endorsement Committee shall exist as a standing committee of the General Board and shall conduct interviews, prepare and review questionnaires, research candidates, and perform any other tasks necessary to evaluate Democratic candidates for public office.
- B. In an uncontested primary, a recommendation from the Endorsement Committee to endorse shall require a simple majority of the members of the committee present.
- C. In a contested primary, a recommendation from the Endorsement Committee to endorse shall require a 2/3rds majority of the members of the committee present.
- D. The first meeting of the Endorsement Committee during each even numbered calendar year shall occur at the state convention excepting that it shall be held earlier on those occasions when the convention is scheduled at the end of the proceeding odd numbered

year).

(1) The committee shall prepare a preliminary report of their activities, including recommendations for endorsement, and shall present the report for review at the state convention.

(2) The preliminary report may only include recommendations for endorsement of those individuals who have actively sought the endorsement of our organization. This policy may be waived in extreme circumstances at the discretion of the Endorsement Committee chair.

(3) The General Board shall review the preliminary report as soon as possible after submission and shall consider the recommendations for endorsement contained within that report.

E. The Endorsement Committee shall be empowered to meet at the call of the Chair after the State Convention to consider additional endorsements.

(1) A final report, including all recommendations relating to endorsements by the organization, shall be prepared and submitted to the General Board for review no later than two weeks after the filing deadline each year.

(2) Following the submission of the final report, the Endorsement Committee shall adjourn until the following calendar year.

F. Any recommendation by the Endorsement Committee shall be approved by the General Board upon a simple majority vote. No endorsement shall be issued on behalf of the organization except upon approval by the General Board.

G. The General Board shall be empowered to withdraw any endorsement issued upon a 3/4ths majority vote by the General Board.

H. Upon the issuance of an endorsement by the General Board, a letter shall be sent to the candidate endorsed which shall be signed by the President and the Executive Vice President to certify our endorsement.

I. The Endorsement Committee shall be chaired by the Executive Vice President, the Vice President of Political and Legislative Affairs will be the Vice Chair of the committee and a Secretary will be appointed by the committee chair.

J. Voting members of the Endorsement Committee shall be limited to the Chair, the Vice Chair, the Secretary, and a representative from each properly chartered local organization.

Section 2. Steering Committee

A. The Steering Committee shall exist as a committee of the General Board, and shall consist of all the elected officers defined in Section 2(A) through Section 2(k), as well as one representative from the President's Council.

B. The Steering Committee shall meet once every month at the call of the President, and shall act as the principal administrative body charged with carrying out the decisions of the General Board.

C. The Steering Committee shall be vested with the following powers as well as any additional powers that are granted to it by the General Board:

- (1) The expenditure of funds in accordance with an annual budget that has been approved by the General Board; and
- (2) Provisional approval of the charters of new or existing local organizations, subject to the final approval of the General Board; and
- (3) Coordination and supervision of the activities of all state officers.

D. All decisions and actions of the Steering Committee are subject to the review of the General Board, and may be vetoed by a majority of the Board.

Section 3. Additional Committees

A. The Membership Committee shall exist as a standing committee of the General Board, and shall consist of the Vice President of Membership, who shall chair the Committee, as well as those officers defined in Article III who are designed as members of the Committee.

B. The Political & Legislative Affairs Committee shall exist as a standing committee of the General Board, and shall consist of the Vice President of Political & Legislative Affairs, who shall chair the Committee, as well as those officers defined in Article III who are designed as members of the Committee.

C. The Communications Committee shall exist as a standing committee of the General Board, and shall consist of the Vice President of Communication, who shall chair the Committee, as well as those officers defined in Article III who are designed as members of the Committee.

D. The External Relations Committee shall exist as a standing committee of the General Board, and shall consist of the President, who shall chair the Committee, as well as those officers defined in Article III who are designed as members of the Committee.

E. The standing committees defined in this section shall meet once per month at the call of their chair.

Section 4. In all Standing Committees in which the President is otherwise not a member, the President shall be a member ex-officio without vote.

Article VIII - State Convention

Section 1. The State Convention of the Washington State Stonewall Democrats shall be held between the November general election and the state party reorganization in January of even numbered years and shall have the highest authority over all organizational activities, subject to the provisions of these bylaws.

Section 2. In the interests of ensuring that each geographical region of the state shall have the opportunity to host a convention, the site of the convention shall rotate between the five geographical regions: Peninsula, Eastern, Northwestern, Central and Southwestern.

A. The site for a convention held in a Presidential election year shall be open to bidding from any geographical region.

B. No region shall host the convention more than twice consecutively or more than twice within six years.

Section 3. The bidding process for hosting the state convention shall be open immediately following each state convention in accordance with the provisions of Section 2.

Section 4. The General Board shall determine the next convention site and Host Committee Chair by June preceding the Congressional election.

Section 5. The official call for the state convention shall be transmitted to all members of the Stonewall Democrats in good standing and to all Washington State Democratic Central Committee County and Legislative District Chairs no later than thirty (30) days prior to the date of the Convention.

Section 6. A General Board meeting shall be held not less than thirty (30) days prior to the date of the State Convention to consider the following items:

A. The President shall appoint, subject to confirmation by the Executive Board, chairs for the following convention standing committees: Bylaws, Rules, Credentials, Nominations, and Platform. Committee chairs shall appoint a Vice Chair and a Secretary, who shall be entitled to vote on that committee.

B. The General Board shall elect a temporary convention chair until such time as the convention selects a permanent chair.

Section 7. Proxy votes shall not be allowed at the State Convention. Delegates must be present to vote except that, for the election of Club officers only, absentee ballots shall be accepted from members who are eligible to vote but unable to attend the meeting at which the election is held. Policies and procedures for absentee balloting shall be prescribed by the Executive Board. For the election of Club officers, absentee ballots shall count toward a quorum.

Section 8. The officers shall be elected individually. The election of officers shall be by secret ballot. To be eligible to vote in any election, members must have been in good standing for at least 90 days prior to the election. To be elected a nominee must receive a majority of the votes cast for that office. If no nominee receives a majority on the first ballot, the candidate receiving the least percentage of votes shall be dropped from the ballot, and another vote shall be taken. Balloting shall continue in this manner until a candidate receives a majority. If there is only one nominee for an office, the ballot shall include a choice of no election for that office which shall be included in tabulating the votes cast.

Section 9. The action committee for the state convention shall be called the Host Committee.

A. The members of the Host Committee are determined by the winning bid for the convention as decided by the General Board in October of each year in accordance with Article VIII of the Washington State Stonewall Democrats Bylaws. Additionally, each

congressional district shall appoint a member to the host committee to assist with the convention, including but not limited to recruitment and publicity for the convention in their district.

B. The original convention bid shall include a general budget, which includes an analysis of the best facilities for the convention, appropriate registration fees, discounts for early registration, mail-in registration requirements and reasonable hardship waiver cut-off dates and/or times. This budget is reviewed and approved by the General Board at the time the bid is selected. Minor revisions during the planning process are the responsibility of the Host Committee. Nothing in this section may be construed as preventing the Credentials Committee from awarding additional credentials and/or granting additional hardship waivers to any delegate on-site at the convention.

C. It is the responsibility of the Host Committee to ensure that appropriate measures are taken to make the convention financially solvent.

D. The further responsibilities of the Host Committee shall be: secure the chosen facilities for the event, notify the hotel that the event is a convention and as such, may have pockets of noise and conversation into the night so that our rooms are appropriately blocked away from the "regular" guests, schedule the activities for both days of the convention, obtain keynote speakers and workshop facilitators, working with the Vice President of Communication, will coordinate publicity and press releases for the convention and will be responsible for the bulk mailing of the Convention Call to Washington State Stonewall Democrats members and prospects. Will prepare and coordinate all official signage and documentation blanks for the convention, including but not limited to: directional and welcome signs, schedules and local attraction guidesheets, convention ballots, delegate badges or ID, guest badges, programs and convention folders.

E. The Host Committee shall provide a progress report at each Steering Committee meeting from October through April of each year, and shall provide a wrap-up report at the next General Board meeting following the convention. The final report shall specifically include convention income and expenditures.

Section 10. The standing committees for the state convention shall be: Bylaws, Credentials, Platform, Nominations and Rules. Each committee shall consist of the following voting members: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and one representative from each of the properly chartered local organizations.

Section 11. Standing Committee Responsibilities:

A. Bylaws: Conduct a thorough review of the Washington State Stonewall Democrats By-Laws, and prepare any proposed changes to be submitted to the general assembly of the state convention. The committee should consider any proposals to remove unnecessary sections, add new sections relating to areas not currently addressed, improve clarity, and strengthen our organizational structure.

B. Credentials: Determine the method by which the congressional districts are allocated votes at the state convention, determine the number of votes allowed to each congressional district, and prepare a report to be submitted to the general assembly of the state convention. The committee should consider how delegates are to be registered on-site and what records must be kept.

C. Platform: Develop a comprehensive document describing the position of the majority of Stonewall Democrats on a wide variety of issues, and prepare a platform to be submitted to the general assembly of the state convention. The committee should review the previous platform and consider any issues of importance to Stonewall people.

D. Nominations: Officers may be nominated in one of two ways, by the Nominating Committee or from the floor immediately prior to the voting for each office.

(1) In developing its slate of nominees, the Nominating Committee shall make its best effort toward the attainment of a goal of having gender equity in the offices of President and Executive Vice President and gender parity in all of the elected positions.

(2) Nominees for election as officers of the club must have been members for at least 90 days prior to taking office and must have been members for at least twelve months out of the two years preceding the election.

E. Rules: Establish rules for the operation and conduct of the state convention general assembly, and prepare a report to be submitted to the general assembly. The committee should consider how standing committee reports will be considered, and what our election process will be.

Section 12. The convention standing committees shall provide the Steering Committee with a final copy of their report at the state convention no later than 9:00 am Sunday.

Section 13. The Steering Committee shall review the reports, and may attach a recommendation to the report(s), but shall not alter or amend standing committee reports.

Section 14. The Steering Committee shall forward the standing committee reports, and any recommendations attached to them, to the general assembly of the state convention no later than 10:00 am Sunday.

Section 15. The general assembly may opt to take action on standing committee reports, or any Steering Committee recommendations, or both. All action taken by the general assembly is final.

Article IX - List Management

Section 1. Computerized lists of Washington State Stonewall Democrats members and supporters are valuable and private. They are intended for the private use of the Washington State Stonewall Democrats, and may not be used for unauthorized purposes.

Section 2. The Washington State Stonewall Democrats membership list will automatically be provided to the Stonewall Democrats of America whenever the Washington State Stonewall Democrats is chartered and in good standing with the Washington State Stonewall Democrats. Members who opt-out of affiliation with the National Stonewall Democrats upon initial establishment of their membership will not be included in that membership list.

Section 3. Washington State Stonewall Democrats lists may be given to recognized Democratic candidates only if they were specifically endorsed by the Washington State

Stonewall Democrats; to the Democratic Party and Democratic Party affiliate organizations, to committees for causes generally, but not necessarily specifically, supported by Democrats, or to vendors of campaign or political merchandise which are affiliated either with Washington State Stonewall Democrats or an organization of the Washington State Democrats.

Section 4. It is the responsibility of each club chair to submit an updated copy of his or her membership list to his or her respective regional organizers each quarter, so that the state database may be kept as current as possible. Club chairs may submit updated lists more frequently, if they wish.

Section 5. A "negative option" box will be provided on all Washington State Stonewall Democrats membership forms so that members may choose to have their name left off political vendors' lists. All Washington State Stonewall Democrats members will be reported on lists given to the Democratic Party or to recognized candidates.

Section 6. Members running for election to Washington State Stonewall Democrats office may purchase gummed mailing labels of Washington State Stonewall Democrats members to use for campaign purposes. Labels will be sold by zip code or alphabetical order for \$.05 each. Purchased labels may not be reproduced except for Washington State Stonewall Democrats or local Democratic Party business.

Section 7. Exceptions to the By-Laws regarding Washington State Stonewall Democrats list management require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the General Board.

Article X - Amendment Procedure

Section 1. Amendments to these bylaws shall be adopted only by a three-fourths (3/4) affirmative vote of the delegates at a State Convention.

Section 2. Amendments to these bylaws shall become effective immediately after adjournment of the state convention.

Article XI - Policy

Section 1. It shall be the policy of this organization to endeavor to uphold all ideals set forth in these bylaws and by the Democratic Party.

Section 2. This organization may charter and become a part of the Stonewall Democrats of America and endeavor to carry on the work of that organization in the state of Washington.

A. Voting members of the National Committee of the Stonewall Democrats of America shall be the President, National Stonewall Committeewoman and National Stonewall Committeeman.

B. In the event one of Washington's three voting members of the National Committee of the Stonewall Democrats of America is entitled to receive a vote as the result of holding another office in the national organization, the President shall be entitled to appoint, with General Board confirmation, a permanent designee to the National Committee to ensure the state of Washington receives its maximum possible vote.

Section 3. This organization seeks a cooperative relationship with the Washington State Democratic Central Committee and shall be guided by the actions of the Democratic Party assembled in state or national convention.

Article XII - Fiscal Policy

Section 1: It shall be the policy of this organization to endeavor to conduct business in a financially responsible fashion.

A. Recognizing that overdue accounts receivable and bad debt is the source of failure of many businesses, and that when an employer dissolves, that the common worker suffers, The Washington State Stonewall Democrats shall not contract for credit nor incur bills on goods or services which the organization cannot reasonably and fairly expect to pay within the specified contract terms.

B. In addition to monitoring a reasonable budget and positive cash flow, the Washington State Stonewall Democrats shall actively seek avenues of operational cost savings which will not impact the success of Washington State Stonewall Democrats events, nor conflict with the ideals of the Washington State Stonewall Democrats.

Article XIII Parliamentary Authority

Section 1. The rules contained in the current edition of Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and do not conflict with the By-Laws of this organization, the Charter of the Stonewall Democrats of America, and any special rules of order that this organization may adopt.