

By-laws of Lambda Nu Tau Chapter, Tri-Ess

Article I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be: Lambda Nu Tau Chapter, an affiliated chapter of The Society for the Second Self, Inc., hereafter referred to as Lambda Nu Tau and Tri-Ess respectively.

Article II. DEFINITION

Lambda Nu Tau is a non-profit, volunteer, educational, outreach organization.

Article III. AFFILIATION

1. Lambda Nu Tau is an affiliated chapter of Tri-Ess, but reserves the right to co-affiliate with other organizations.
2. Lambda Nu Tau may, with the consent of a majority of the members voting, participate in communications with, and the mutual support systems of, other groups or organizations, which support, or promote the free expression of gender, but may not become bound by the by-laws or policies of any group other than Tri-Ess.

Article IV. PURPOSE

The purpose of Lambda Nu Tau is to act as a non-sexual support group for heterosexual crossdressers, spouses and life partners of crossdressers, and their families. Toward this end, it will:

1. Provide programs, speakers, services and social activities for the support of its members and to promote the acceptance of crossdressing.
2. Provide opportunities for crossdressing, for the purpose of developing self-understanding and self-acceptance.
3. Pass on knowledge and understanding of crossdressing to related organizations and to the public.
4. Assist members with problems related to crossdressing, whenever possible.
5. Promote the By-laws, Policies and goals of Tri-Ess as stated in the Tri-Ess By-Laws and Policies.

Article V. MEMBERSHIP

1. General Provisions:
 - A. Individuals seeking full voting membership in Lambda Nu Tau must be:
 - 1) Heterosexual crossdressers, spouses or partners of heterosexual crossdressers, adult children of heterosexual crossdressers, or parents of heterosexual crossdressers
 - 2) Must be at least eighteen (18) years of age
 - 3) Not actively seeking, nor having had, sexual reassignment.
 - B. All prospective members must be interviewed by an authorized representative of the Chapter, who will submit to the Board of Directors a screening report. The Board will vote on the application, a simple majority being required to accept the applicant into membership.
 - C. Membership will not be denied on the basis of race, religious preference, physical appearance or disability, genetic sex, marital status, the amount of time spent crossdressed or use of hormones.

By-laws of Lambda Nu Tau Chapter, Tri-Ess

2. Full voting members
 - A. Heterosexual crossdressers and their spouses, life-partners, adult children or parents are eligible to become full voting members of Lambda Nu Tau Chapter provided they are members in good standing of Tri-Ess.
 - B. Full voting members are entitled to all benefits of Lambda Nu Tau Chapter membership stated herein. In addition, they shall be entitled to:
 - 1) Hold office in Lambda Nu Tau Chapter
 - 2) Cast one vote in chapter elections and/or referenda
 - 3) Attend all meetings, unless otherwise stated in these by-laws and policies.
3. Non-voting memberships
 - A. Persons having a legitimate constructive interest in being a member of Lambda Nu Tau Chapter but otherwise ineligible for membership under Article V, Section 2, are eligible for non-voting membership.
 - B. This class of non-voting member is required to seek membership in Tri-Ess or Friends of Tri-Ess as appropriate
 - C. Supportive vendors may obtain non-voting membership. This class of non-voting member is not required to seek membership in Tri-Ess or Friends of Tri-Ess.

Article VI. SPOUSES, PARTNERS, AND FAMILY MEMBERS

- 1 Spouses, partners and nuclear family members of heterosexual crossdressers may enjoy all the rights of full voting members of Lambda Nu Tau Chapter provided they meet all the criteria for membership in Article V of the by-laws.
- 2 Spouses or partners who have lost a partner may apply to the Board of Directors for a continuation of their full voting membership status. By majority vote, the Board of Directors may grant such full voting membership on a case by case basis.
- 3 Participation in the Spouses and Partners Support Group and/or Couples Group.
 - A. All participants in the Lambda Nu Tau Spouses and Partners Support Group and/or Couples Group must be qualified for membership under the general provision of Article V of the by-laws.
 - B. All participants in the Lambda Nu Tau Spouses and Partners Support Group and/or Couples Group must be members of Tri-Ess and of Lambda Nu Tau Chapter.

Article VII. MINOR CHILDREN

- 1 Minor children shall be considered special guests of Lambda Nu Tau Chapter. Attendance by minor children at Lambda Nu Tau Chapter functions is a family issue and will be decided as such, although it is strongly recommended that children attend only with the approval of both parents and/or legal guardians.
- 2 All minors attending meetings must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian who will be responsible for their conduct. Attendance of minor children during meetings with content of an adult matter is discouraged.

By-laws of Lambda Nu Tau Chapter, Tri-Ess

Article VIII. DUTIES OF MEMBERS

- 1 All members of Lambda Nu Tau shall support and abide by the By-laws and policies of Lambda Nu Tau and Tri-Ess.
- 2 All members shall conduct themselves in an appropriate manner and strive to make others feel welcome.
- 3 All members shall also vote, if eligible, in Lambda Nu Tau elections and referenda.
- 4 All members shall promote Lambda Nu Tau and Tri-Ess whenever possible.
- 5 It is expected that every Lambda Nu Tau member will do his/her share of work on chapter committees and projects.

Article IX. DUES AND ASSESSMENTS

- 1 Annual Dues
 - A. Lambda Nu Tau may levy annual dues against members, payable on the date membership commences and then in the month of October every year thereafter.
 - B. Prospective members must join Tri-Ess within 30 days of approval for membership.
 - C. The Chapter will adopt the "Rudd Plan" as defined by Tri-Ess for payment of dues to the national organization. This means that dues to Tri-Ess will also be due in October of each year.
 - D. Annual Chapter dues may be modified with the consent of a two-thirds majority of the voting members in attendance.
 - E. Those failing to renew their memberships in Lambda Nu Tau or Tri-Ess within sixty (60) days of the date due shall immediately lose all membership privileges.
 - F. The chapter shall keep accurate records of membership in Lambda Nu Tau Chapter and Tri-Ess.
- 2 Meeting Fees
 - A. Members may be assessed a nominal fee to defray meeting expenses.
 - B. Meeting fee assessments may be adjusted by a two-thirds majority of the voting members in attendance.
 - C. Any member who attends a Lambda Nu Tau Chapter Meeting must pay meeting fees, regardless of his/her time of arrival.
 - D. Members failing to pay the assessed meeting fees may not attend subsequent meetings and shall forfeit voting rights until said fees are paid in full.
 - E. Guests and visitors will not be expected to pay the meeting fees.
- 3 Special Assessments
 - A. Members may be assessed fees for special purposes with the consent of a majority of the voting members in attendance.
 - B. Special assessments may not be levied on a recurring or continuing basis.

By-laws of Lambda Nu Tau Chapter, Tri-Ess

4 Hardships

- A. A member may petition the Board in writing for the granting of a hardship status. This petition shall be reviewed in closed session of the Board. Hardship status shall be reviewed annually. It is the member's responsibility to keep the Board apprised of his/her financial status.
- B. In the case of severe financial hardship only the Board of Directors at its discretion, may invoke one of the following hardship plans:
 - 1) Payment of full dues in monthly installments.
 - 2) Payment of dues discounted by one-third, in quarterly installments.
 - 3) Waive dues for one year, after which time a member is expected to move to one of the other hardship plans or pay dues in full.
- C. The Lambda Nu Tau Chapter Board of Directors will send to the Membership Director of Tri-Ess a recommendation for hardship status and the type of hardship recommended.
- D. In cases of permanent and total disability the chapter may request permanent waiver of dues from Tri-Ess National.
- E. Cash flow problems other than indigence will not be considered valid grounds for granting a hardship status. Unwillingness to pay dues is not grounds for hardship status and will result in loss of all membership privileges.
- F. Members granted hardship status will enjoy full membership privileges provided they meet all other criteria for membership.

Article X. MEETINGS

1 Chapter Meetings

- A. Regular Chapter meetings shall be held on the first Saturday of each month unless rescheduled or canceled at a previous Chapter meeting with the consent of a majority of the voting members in attendance.
- B. Additional Meetings and/or special events can be scheduled and held as decided by the membership
- C. Lambda Nu Tau reserves the right to restrict the number of guests at chapter meetings and the right to deny attendance to hostile, intoxicated or otherwise undesirable individuals.

2 Board Meetings:

- A. Lambda Nu Tau Board of Directors shall meet each month prior to the date of the Chapter Meeting.
- B. The Lambda Nu Tau Board of Directors Meetings shall be open, except for discussion of items related to hardship or discipline.

3 Meeting Communications

The location and time of all meetings will be communicated to the Chapter membership at least 5 days prior to the meeting

By-laws of Lambda Nu Tau Chapter, Tri-Ess

Article XI. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1 Chapter Officers

- A. The Board of Directors of Lambda Nu Tau shall consist of the following positions:
 - 1) Facilitator
 - 2) Treasurer
 - 3) Secretary
 - 4) Outreach Leader
 - 5) Newsletter Editor
- B. The members of the board will be elected by the membership annually with the term of service running for one year from October 1st through September 30th.
- C. Eligibility to serve as a Chapter Officer shall be restricted to voting members who are members in good standing, who have not previously been removed from the Board for cause, and do not serve as or in the capacity of an officer or director of any other crossgender organization within 50 miles of the boundaries of Dallas and Tarrant counties.
- D. No one person or family may hold more than one Chapter Officer position
- E. Additional positions on The Board may be added as defined by the Chapter Officers with the agreement of the membership
- F. Officers shall be elected, whenever possible, by ballots submitted by voting members attending the regular chapter meeting nearest the end of the term of office. However, voting members may submit absentee ballots to the Chapter Treasurer via mail or electronically via e-mail. Ballots received by the day before the meeting shall be included in the tally, and the candidate for each office receiving the most votes shall be elected.

2 Duties of the Board

- A. The Board shall be responsible for the effective administration of Lambda Nu Tau, its By-laws, Policies and Board Directives and toward this end shall:
 - 1) Hold monthly meetings to discuss and pass on administrative matters.
 - 2) Appoint committees and/or delegates to perform tasks for the fulfillment of Board responsibilities.
 - 3) Make recommendations for action to the members of the chapter to be voted upon by the members of the chapter.
- B. The Board shall be responsible to the voting members of Lambda Nu Tau and to the governing body of Tri-Ess.
- C. The Facilitator shall:
 - 1) Preside at all Chapter and Board Meetings.
 - 2) Represent Lambda Nu Tau to the public, to Tri-Ess and to other crossgender organizations.
- D. The Treasurer shall:
 - 1) Establish and maintain the Chapter bank account as directed by the board
 - 2) Collect and record all chapter dues and fees according to these by-laws
 - 3) Maintain the financial records of the Chapter and report monthly to the board on the financial of the chapter and to Tri-Ess on an annual basis
 - 4) Assist in absentee voting by ensuring that:
 - a. All absentee ballots are collected by the close of voting
 - b. Each absentee ballot has been submitted by a member eligible to vote
 - c. All ballots are counted and verified and results communicated

By-laws of Lambda Nu Tau Chapter, Tri-Ess

- E. The Secretary shall:
 - 1) Record and report accurate minutes of all board meetings to the chapter
 - 2) Maintain the Chapter membership roster and mailing lists
 - 3) Work with the Treasurer to administrate absentee voting
- F. The Outreach Leader shall:
 - 1) Establish Outreach programs to foster better understanding of Crossdressing within the general community and with GLBT and cross-gender organizations
 - 2) Recruit member participation in Outreach programs
- G. The Newsletter Editor shall
 - 1) Publish and distribute the Chapter Newsletter on a monthly basis
 - 2) Insure that all information in the newsletter is correct and factual within their knowledge, and insure that pictures of members or guests are used only with their permission.
- 3 Conduct of Business
 - A. The Board shall conduct business in accordance with ARTICLE XII, unless otherwise stated in these by-laws and policies.
 - B. A quorum shall consist of 2/3 of board members.
 - C. Board decisions on matters specifically requiring a membership vote shall not be binding unless ratified by the voting members at a subsequent chapter meeting.
 - D. At any meeting where the Facilitator is not present, other board members may assume the leadership position to act in the carrying out of Chapter business.
- 4 Vacancies on the Board
 - A. Should the Facilitators seat become vacant for any reason prior to the end of the current term the membership shall elect an interim Facilitator to serve until the end of the term or until the originally elected Facilitator returns to office, whichever comes first.
 - B. Should the seat of a Chapter Officer or Board Member become vacant, for any reason, prior to the end of the current term, the Facilitator shall appoint an interim officer, with the advice and consent of the Board, to serve until the end of the term or until the elected Officer or Board Member returns to office, whichever comes first.
 - C. If a board member is unable to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of his/her board position, he/she will be expected to resign his/her office.

Article XII. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

- 1 Calendar
 - A. The chapter anniversary date is October 1st.
 - B. The social year of Lambda Nu Tau shall be from October 1st through September 30th of the calendar year.
 - C. The business or fiscal year of Lambda Nu Tau shall be from January 1st through December 31st of the calendar year.
- 2 Lambda Nu Tau business shall be conducted during chapter meetings unless stated otherwise in these by-laws and policies as follows:
 - A. Elections and referenda shall be decided by a simple majority vote of the members voting.

By-laws of Lambda Nu Tau Chapter, Tri-Ess

- B. The eligible voting members shall decide membership admission codes, conduct, security, financial assessments and other matters having an impact on the membership provided such matters are consistent with these by-laws.
- C. The conduct of all business meetings shall follow a format to be determined by the board of directors, unless otherwise stated in these by-laws and policies.

Article XIII. CONFORMITY WITH TRI-ESS BY-LAWS AND POLICIES

Any by-law, policy or provision contained herein that conflicts with any Tri-Ess by-law, policy or provisions shall be declared null and void.

Article XIV. AMENDMENTS OF BY-LAWS

- 1 The by-laws may be amended as set forth herein, with the exception of ARTICLE XIII and ARTICLE XIV.
 - A. All voting members must be advised in writing of any proposed amendments a minimum of twenty days prior to the meeting at which the matter is to be voted on.
 - B. Each amendment to be made must be voted on independently.
 - C. Members must vote in person, voting shall be conducted during the business portion of a chapter meeting by secret ballot and tabulated by the Facilitator and another person as determined by members present.
 - D. A two-thirds majority vote shall be required for any amendment to pass
 - E. Typographical or grammatical corrections should not be considered as amendments.
- 2 Amendments to ARTICLE XIV
 - A. Require a two-thirds majority of all the members eligible to vote.
 - B. Shall constitute a withdrawal from membership in Tri-Ess and require immediate notification be given to that organization.