Bylaws Report

Executive Board

September 23, 2023

**Clarification of CTSO Bylaws regarding a minimum number of members in a chapter**

**CURRENT**:

The **CTSO Bylaws** state:

**Article V ORGANIZATION**

**Section B. Chapter**

1. Chapters shall be organized in accordance with state organization bylaws. Each chapter so organized shall have no fewer than twelve (12) members.

**The Constitution** states:

**Article V ORGANIZATION**

**Section A. Levels of Organization**

The business of the Society shall be conducted by the organization on three (3) levels. The three (3) levels of organization shall be chapter, state organization, and international.

**Section B. Chapter Level**

1. Chapters shall be organized in accordance with state organization bylaws. Each chapter so organized shall have no fewer than twelve (12) members. The Society shall grant the charter.
2. Charter members shall be those who become members of the chapter at the time of installation of the chapter. Any member who transfers her membership to the new chapter at the time of its installation becomes a charter member of the new chapter.
3. Each chapter shall have chapter rules which are consistent with the *Constitution* and its state organization bylaws.

The rules in Article V Organization apply when members/women wish to organize a new chapter. The only reference to minimum numbers in the state Bylaws and the Constitution is under the section titled Article V Organization. There is no mention of minimum numbers under Membership. State and chapter treasurers pay dues to DKG International yearly. Never has International refused dues if the number of chapter members is lower than 12. Those of us who have served on the Executive Board know that when chapters have dissolved or merged in the past, the result has been a loss in membership. Revitalization is a time to strengthen chapters both small and large. Building membership is a desired outcome of revitalizing chapters, but chapters with membership now at less than 12 have been granted charters and can continue as a chapter with a low number of members.

To clarify and avoid misinterpretation in the future in CTSO Bylaws, the word ‘charter’ can be added to the existing language. The word ‘charter’ is used in the International documents. This is not an amendment to our Bylaws. It is considered a conforming change made to reflect the intent of the stated membership number in the Constitution.

**Conforming language is presented in writing to the Executive Board and to general membership in The Keynote as a notification of a conforming change**.

**NEW CONFORMING BYLAW:**

The **CTSO Bylaws** will conform to read:

**Article V ORGANIZATION**

**Section B. Chapter**

1. Chapters shall be organized in accordance with state organization bylaws. Each chapter so organized shall have no fewer than twelve (12) **charter** members.

**Remuneration and voting privileges**

Membership voted to approve a balanced budget which resulted in neither the Treasurer nor the Executive Secretary receiving remuneration. Both officers are appointed, not elected, but language differs. The following amendment is proposed so that both offices are described with identical language.

Motion #1: To amend the CTSO Standing Rules, I. Duties of Officers and Related Personnel Executive Secretary I, 6.

**CURRENT:**

The **CTSO Bylaws** state: **Article VI OFFICERS**

**Section A. State officers and duties**

1. The state officers, all of whom must be members of the Society, shall be a president, a first vice president, a second vice president, and a recording secretary (all elected); a treasurer, an assistant treasurer, an executive secretary (selected by the Executive Board upon recommendation of the president), and a parliamentarian (appointed by the president).
2. These officers shall perform the duties as prescribed and applicable in the *Constitution*, Article VI and as authorized by the Connecticut State Organization Bylaws and/or Standing Rules.

The **CTSO Standing Rules** currently state:

**1. Duties of Officers and Related Personnel**

**E. Treasurer (recommended by the president, selected by the executive board)**

1. Perform all duties as outlined in the *Constitution*, Article VI, Section C.

**I. Executive Secretary (recommended by the president, selected by the executive board)**

1. Shall serve as a member ex-officio, without a vote, on the international and state executive boards.

**The Constitution** states: **Article VI OFFICERS**

**Section C. Duties**

1. Executive Secretary- *state organization (optional)*

The state organization executive secretary shall perform such duties as are prescribed in her contract and/or delegated by the executive board and the president and shall serve as a member ex officio, without vote, on the international and state organization executive boards.

1. Treasurer – *state organization and chapter*
2. The treasurer at each level shall

(7) serve as a member ex officio, without vote if under remunerative contract for her services, on the respective executive board.

**NEW: CTSO Standing Rule:**

**1. Duties of Officers and Related Personnel**

**I. Executive Secretary (recommended by the president, selected by the executive board)**

1. Shall serve as a member ex-officio, without vote if under remunerative contract for her services on the CTSO Executive Board.

**RATIONALE:**

The International Constitution states that:

* The state organization executive secretary shall perform such duties as are prescribed in her contract.
* The state treasurer shall serve as a member ex officio, without vote if under remunerative contract for her services, on the respective executive board.

Both offices are under contract. While the treasurer’s contract has the adjective ‘remunerative’ as a descriptor, the Executive Secretary’s contract is not described in any way.

Both offices are ex-officio, and both are appointed, not elected. Because of these similarities, the recommendation is to clearly describe the contract of the Executive Secretary in the same way the Treasurer’s contract is described.

**Voting privileges**

Motion #2: To amend the **CTSO Bylaws,** Article VIII Executive Board A.1.:

**CURRENT**:

The **CTSO Bylaws** state: **ARTICLE VIII EXECUTIVE BOARD**

1. State Executive Board
2. The voting members of the Executive Board shall be the elected officers, the immediate past state president, the standing committee chairs, elected committee members, and state members of International Committees for the length of their term on those committees. Each chapter is also entitled to two votes on the Executive Board. The chapter president casts one vote. The additional chapter vote is cast by a second member of the chapter. The state offices of treasurer, assistant treasurer, executive secretary, and the parliamentarian shall be ex-officio members, without vote.

**NEW: ARTICLE VIII EXECUTIVE BOARD**

A. State Executive Board

1. The voting members of the Executive Board shall be the elected officers, the immediate past state president, the standing committee chairs, elected committee members, and state members of International Committees for the length of their term on those committees. Each chapter is also entitled to two votes on the Executive Board. The chapter president casts one vote. The additional chapter vote is cast by a second member of the chapter. **The parliamentarian shall be an ex-officio member without vote. The state offices of treasurer, assistant treasurer, and executive secretary shall be ex-officio members, without vote if receiving remuneration.**

**RATIONALE:**

An amendment is necessary because the current language contradicts the CTSO Standing Rules new amendment clarifying that the positions of treasurer, assistant treasurer, and executive secretary shall have voting privileges if there is no remuneration.

Deborah Soresino, Chair

Bylaws Committee