

# NATIONAL CONSTITUTION OF THE ALPHA RHO CHI FRATERNITY

## PREAMBLE

In order to secure a closer fellowship among ourselves, and to encourage a greater interest in the study of Architecture and the Allied Arts, a fraternity known as ALPHA RHO CHI is hereby established and constituted, and we hereby declare for its government this Constitution.

## ARTICLE I

### NAME, EMBLEMS, MOTTO, AND AWARDS

#### Section 01 NAME

The corporate name of this organization shall be: "ALPHA RHO CHI FRATERNITY".

#### Section 02 EMBLEMS

The emblems of the Fraternity shall consist of a badge, a coat-of-arms, a sister pin, a recognition button, a pledge button, a system of colors, and a flower.

#### Section 03 COLORS

The colors of the ALPHA RHO CHI FRATERNITY shall be Sanguine (Maroon) and Azure (Navy Blue).

#### Section 04 FLOWER

The flower of the ALPHA RHO CHI FRATERNITY shall be the White Rose.

#### Section 05 MOTTO

The motto of the ALPHA RHO CHI FRATERNITY shall be "Fidelitas Amor et Artes", (Fidelity, Love of the Arts).

#### Section 06 BADGE, COAT-OF-ARMS, ETC.

The official form of the badge, coat-of-arms, and pledge button shall be as prescribed in the Ritual.

#### Section 07 MEDALS

The ALPHA RHO CHI FRATERNITY medals shall be gold medals to be awarded for recognition of professional distinction, silver medals to be awarded for recognition of fraternal distinction, and bronze medals to be awarded to a graduating senior student in an accredited and/or approved architectural program for recognition of leadership, service, and promise of professional merit. The recipients of the gold and silver medals shall be nominated by the Grand Council and approved by a three quarters majority vote of the Chapters and Alumni Associations.

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## ARTICLE II

### OBJECTIVES AND POWERS

Section 01 The objectives of the Fraternity are:

To organize and unite for education and professional development purposes the students of Architecture and its Allied Arts in the universities and colleges of America and the alumni members of this Fraternity in order that this Fraternity may promote the artistic, scientific, and practical proficiency of its membership and the profession.

Section 02 The Powers of the Fraternity are:

- A. To legislate and administrate pursuant to this Constitution and the By-Laws of the Fraternity for the general benefit and welfare of this Fraternity and its local Chapters and Associations;
- B. To charge and collect dues and fees of its Members, local Chapters, Associations and Colonies;
- C. To determine, and be the sole judge of any disputes, obligations and responsibilities of its local Chapters and Associations between each other and/or the Fraternity;
- D. To accept or expel local Chapters and Associations; and
- E. To perform any other acts for the benefit of the Fraternity or its local Chapters, Associations, members or membership organizations which are not inconsistent with applicable federal, state, or local laws, regulations, or ordinances, or the Constitution, By-Laws and Charter of the Fraternity.

Section 03 A member or members of the Grand Council may be removed from office for malfeasance, misfeasance, and/or nonfeasance and other grave circumstances at a regular convention or special session by a three- quarters (3/4) vote of the Chapters and Alumni Associations after a sixty (60) day written notice of the intention to act on the proposed removal.

## ARTICLE III

### CHAPTERS, ASSOCIATIONS, AND MEMBERS

Section 01 DEFINITION

The ALPHA RHO CHI FRATERNITY is a Fraternity composed of local organizations known as Active Chapters and Alumni Associations which are incorporated under the laws of the applicable states wherein they are located and which are more particularly described in the Constitution and By-Laws of the Fraternity.

Section 02 MEMBERS

The classifications of membership of this Fraternity shall consist of Actives, Non-Graduates, Alumni, Faculty, Honorary and Master Architect members of the several Chapters, as more particularly described by Article IX, Section 01 of this Constitution.

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## ARTICLE IV

### GOVERNMENT AND PROCEDURE

#### Section 01 THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FRATERNITY

The Fraternity shall be governed:

- A. During any Regular or Special Convention by those individuals possessing the power to vote and the Officers of the Convention;
- B. At all other times by the Grand Council and the Officers of the Fraternity pursuant to and according to the power and authority vested in them by this Constitution, the By-Laws of the Fraternity, and the directives of the Fraternity issued in Convention.

#### Section 02 PROCEDURE

Robert's Rules of Order (**the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised**) shall be used to regulate the proceedings at all meetings of the Fraternity including but not limited to Conventions, Grand Council, Chapter, and important committee meetings, except in such cases as these rules conflict with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Fraternity.

#### Section 03 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee of Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity shall be a Standing Committee; it shall be composed of three to five members who shall contact the Worthy Architects of each of the Active Chapters and the Presidents of each of the Alumni Associations. The Nominating Committee shall elect its own Chairman. The Nominating Committee shall submit the names of all members made known to them, who are seeking Office and shall confirm each member's assurance that he will serve if elected.

The Nominating Committee shall make no recommendations or preferences. The Chairman of the Nominating Committee shall deliver to the President of the Convention a report, prior to the start of each Regular or Special Convention, placing in nomination the names of each nominee received. There shall always be a call by the President of the Convention for further nominations from the floor.

## ARTICLE V

### THE CONVENTION

#### Section 01 TIME, PLACE AND NOTICE

A Convention of the general membership of the Fraternity shall be held annually and as here-in after provided in Article V, Section 03 of this Constitution. The place for holding the Convention, when not fixed by the preceding Convention, shall be determined by the Grand Council. Written notice stating the place of the Convention, the day and hour of the Convention, and in case of a Special Convention the purpose or purposes for which the Convention is called, shall be mailed not less than fifteen (15) nor more than forty (40) days before the date of the Convention.

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### Section 02 JURISDICTION

The Convention shall have jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to the Fraternity as more particularly specified in the By-Laws of the Fraternity, and shall be the final court of appeals for the interpretation of the Constitution and By-Laws. It may amend said Constitution and By-Laws pursuant to and in accordance with Article X of the Constitution.

### Section 03 SPECIAL CONVENTION

A Special Convention shall be called at any time by the Grand Council upon stating the specific purpose of the meeting and securing the consent in writing, by a majority of the Chapters and Alumni Associations.

### Section 04 POSTPONEMENT OF ANY REGULAR OR SPECIAL CONVENTION

When duly authorized by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the Chapters and Alumni Associations, the Grand Council shall have the right to postpone any Regular or Special Convention, but in no case may a Regular Convention be postponed later than two (2) years from the date of the last Regular Convention.

### Section 05 OFFICERS

The Officers of the Convention shall be a President and a Secretary which shall be elected from the non-delegate members present at the Convention by a majority vote of the delegate members.

### Section 06 DELEGATES

Each Active Chapter, so long as the Active Chapter and its delegate are in good standing with all fees to the Fraternity paid currently, shall be entitled to one (1) delegate who shall be elected from its membership and who shall have one vote at the Convention. Each Alumni Association, so long as the Association and its delegate are in good standing with all fees to the Fraternity paid currently, shall be entitled to one (1) delegate, elected or appointed from its membership, who shall have one vote at the Convention. A Chapter or an Alumni Association, and/or its prospective delegate, found not in good standing may be represented by the delegate upon an affirmative vote of three-fourths (3/4) of the delegates who are, and whose Chapters and Alumni Associations are, in good standing.

### Section 07 PROXY VOTING

If the Active Chapter Delegate or Alumni Association Delegate is unable to attend the Convention, the Delegate may transfer voting rights to another member of the same Active Chapter or Alumni Association of which they are a member by executing a proxy in writing submitted along with the original Delegate's credentials. The proxy delegate and the Chapter or Alumni Association must be in good standing as outlined in Section 06 and elsewhere in the Constitution and By-Laws of the Fraternity.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **THE GRAND COUNCIL: DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS**

#### Section 01 THE DUTIES, ELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS

The Grand Council shall act as the Board of Directors for the Fraternity. It shall consist of

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the four (4) elected officers of the Fraternity and the Grand Advisor (G.A.) who shall be a past Grand Council member, or a member of the Fraternity, having been initiated no less than 10 years prior to appointment, and who shall be appointed every two (2) years by a majority vote of the four (4) elected members. The Grand Council shall have general jurisdiction, when the Fraternity is not meeting in Convention, over matters of administration pertaining to the Fraternity as is specified in, but not limited to, the By-Laws of the Fraternity, subject to such duties, limitations, or instructions specified by the membership at any Regular or Special Convention.

### **Section 02 THE DUTIES, ELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS**

The Officers of the Fraternity shall perform their duties as outlined and more particularly specified in the By-Laws of the Fraternity. These Officers shall be the Worthy Grand Architect (W.G.A.) who shall act as President; the Worthy Grand Associate Architect (W.G.A.A.) who shall act as Vice-President and assist the W.G.A. as directed by the W.G.A.; the Worthy Grand Scribe (W.G.S.), who shall act as Secretary; and the Worthy Grand Estimator (W.G.E.), who shall act as Treasurer.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **ACTIVE CHAPTERS**

#### **Section 01 FORMATION, MAINTENANCE AND OBJECTIVES**

The Fraternity shall encourage the formation and maintenance of Chapters. The Chapters shall be incorporated under the laws of the applicable states and shall have included as a corporate purpose in their corporate charters that they shall at all times during their existence be bound and subject to the ALPHA RHO CHI FRATERNITY Constitution and By-Laws. Each Chapter shall be maintained by its members so as to remain financially solvent, in good standing with the Fraternity with all fees fully paid, and a corporate entity in good standing in the state of its incorporation. A Chapter shall not be considered to be in good standing with Fraternity and shall not enjoy the status of a Chapter thereof unless all of the above requirements have been satisfied.

#### **Section 02 NAME**

Each Chapter of the Fraternity shall be designated by the name of a prominent Ancient Egyptian, Greek or Roman architect, such name having been selected by the prospective Chapter and approved by the Grand Council.

#### **Section 03 OFFICERS**

Each Chapter shall have such officers and directors as are reasonably necessary for its orderly government in conformance with all applicable local laws.

#### **Section 04 MEETINGS**

Each Chapter shall meet on a regular basis.

#### **Section 05 ESTABLISHMENT OF CHAPTERS AND COLONIES**

Chapters shall be established and instituted in accordance with the rules specified in this Constitution and the By-Laws of this Fraternity. The Grand Council shall regulate and administer the procedures for the development and colonization of new Chapters and

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shall promulgate such rules and requirements as it deems reasonably necessary to promote and encourage the establishment of new Chapters, including the development of interim organizations to be known as Colonies, provided that such rules and requirements shall be consistent with, and not in contravention of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Fraternity and the edicts and directions of the membership duly assembled in Convention.

### **ARTICLE VIII**

#### **ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS**

##### Section 01      **FORMATION, MAINTENANCE AND OBJECTIVES**

The Fraternity shall encourage the formation and maintenance of Alumni Associations. The Alumni Associations shall be incorporated under the laws of the applicable states and shall have included as a corporate purpose in their corporate charters that they shall at all times during their existence be bound and subject to the ALPHA RHO CHI FRATERNITY Constitution and By-Laws. Each Alumni Association shall be maintained by its members so as to remain financially solvent, in good standing with the Fraternity with all fees fully paid, and a corporate entity in good standing in the state of its incorporation. An Alumni Association shall not be considered to be in good standing with the Fraternity and shall not enjoy the status of an Alumni Association thereof unless all of the above requirements have been satisfied.

##### Section 02      **NAME**

Each Alumni Association of the Fraternity shall be designated by the name of its respective Chapter.

##### Section 03      **OFFICERS**

Each Alumni Association shall have such officers and directors as are reasonably necessary for its orderly government in conformance with Article XVII Section 06 of the National By-Laws of the Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity and all applicable local laws.

##### Section 04      **MEETINGS**

Each Alumni Association shall meet on a regular basis, in conformance with all applicable laws.

##### Section 05      **ESTABLISHMENT OF ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS**

Alumni Associations shall be established and instituted in accordance with the rules specified in the Constitution and By-Laws of this Fraternity. The Grand Council shall regulate and administer the procedures for the development and establishment of new Alumni Associations and shall promulgate such rules and requirements as it deems reasonable necessary to promote and encourage the establishment of new Alumni Associations, provided that such rules and requirements shall be consistent with, and not in contravention of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Fraternity and the edicts and directions of the membership duly assembled in Convention.

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## ARTICLE IX

### INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

#### Section 01 CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the Fraternity shall be divided into six (6) classes, which shall consist of, Active, Non-Graduate, Alumni, Faculty, Honorary, and Master Architect. All members must have completed the Fraternity's Ritual.

(A) Active Members

Active members shall consist of students registered in the departments, schools, colleges or professional courses of architecture or architectural engineering, or in professional courses in landscape architecture, interior design, sculpture, or allied fields leading to a Bachelor's degree, or equivalent thereof, provided however the membership of any active Chapter shall consist of at least fifty percent (50%) of students registered in architecture or allied fields. When an active member transfers to another school, at which a Chapter of this Fraternity is located, he may affiliate as an active member of the second Chapter with its approval.

(B) Non-graduate

Non-graduate members shall consist of members who withdraw from college before receiving a degree.

(C) Alumni

Alumni members shall consist of members who have received degrees from institutions at which Chapters are located, or at any other institution upon notification in writing to the Grand Council.

(D) Faculty

Faculty members shall consist of any member of the Faculty of an institution of which the students are eligible for active membership.

(E) Honorary

Honorary members shall consist of members of the Faculty and others who will reflect honor to the Fraternity. All names of prospective honorary members must first be approved by the Grand Council before they can be elected to honorary membership.

(F) Master Architect

The title "Master Architect" shall be conferred upon such brothers who have gained national prominence in the field of Architecture, the allied arts, or who have made significant contributions to the built environment; who have been members of Alpha Rho Chi for not less than two years; and have met criteria as set forth by the Convention and verified by the Nominating Committee. A Chapter, Alumni Association or the Grand Council may nominate an individual for the title. Nominations must be approved by a three-quarters (3/4) majority vote of the Chapters and Alumni Associations.

(G) Voting Rights

None of the individual members of the six (6) classes of membership shall have the right to vote at any Regular or Special Convention; they do have the right to be represented at any Regular or Special Convention by a Delegate from their respective Active Chapter or Alumni Association. The Delegate qualifications shall be as specified elsewhere in this Constitution or its By-Laws.

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## ARTICLE X

### AMENDMENTS

- Section 01 No amendment, alteration, or addition to this Constitution or the Fraternity's By-Laws shall take effect until it has been presented to the Convention at a regular or special session after sixty (60) days reasonable notice of any proposed amendment, and adopted by a three-fourths (3/4) majority of all the votes cast.
- Section 02 All previous Constitutions and By-Laws or parts thereof of the Fraternity are hereby repealed, and this Constitution and these By-Laws shall be in full force and take effect immediately.

Dated: 31 January 2009



Vicki J. Horton  
Worthy Grand Architect  
ALPHA RHO CHI FRATERNITY

