

Masquerade

Rules And By-Laws 2004

PREAMBLE

Founding Members

Mary Grant (Owner of Lady Godiva Boutique)
Janinie F. (Business Advisor to Mary Grant)
Tina Martin
Stephanie Korotash
Brianna-Rose Stonehouse
Ardra

Established

In January 1997, under the guidance and dedication of the founding members a support group for Crossdressers, TV's and Transsexuals was begun.

ARTICLE 1

Definitions

Crossdresser/Transvestite : One who enjoys the wearing of the clothing of the opposite sex. This can be either female or male. They are not always concerned with makeup and being passable and they may or may not go out in public.

Transexual: One who has the feelings and personality traits opposite to the gender of the body they were born with, and surgically changes their body to the desired gender.

ARTICLE 2

Name

The name of the support group shall be known as "Masquerade"

Purpose

For people with like/common interests to associate and socialize in a safe environment. Masquerade endeavors to provide a safe and secure environment for our members and we do not condone or tolerate inappropriate actions.

ARTICLE 3

Membership

All Crossdressers, Transvestites and Transsexuals, 18 years of age and older and who are prepared to respect and honour these bylaws are welcome to join.

Spouses, significant others are more than welcome to attend and join; as long as it is for supporting our goals and not to heckle, or disrespect any member, attendee or the purpose of the group.

Membership dues will be \$ 30.00 per year, and expire on the last day of February each year. An associate, non-voting membership, is extended to the wives, girlfriends, or significant other of the sponsoring member.

Associate, non-voting, membership is contingent on the sponsoring member being current with their dues, and presently a member, in good standing, with the club.

ARTICLE 4

Duties

Masquerade Executive shall:

- a) support its members in their dressing and/or feminine objectives
- b) promote and further the purpose of the group
- c) raise and control the funds required for Masquerade's use.
- d) assist in the interpretation of the principles, policies, practices and procedures of the group.
- e) promote co-operation with other groups
- f) facilitate the registration of members
- g) suspend, or otherwise discipline, for cause, any member, guest or associate of the club

h) furnish to the club and annual report including a financial statement

BY-LAWS

Preamble

Masquerade Executive shall propose By-Laws, consistent with the purpose, principles and operating policies of the Group and for:

- a) The governing of the Executive
- b) The regulations and duties generally of its officers

ARTICLE 1

Officers

The officers of Masquerade Executive shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Past President, Secretary, Treasurer, Program Coordinator, Events Coordinator, and such other persons as considered necessary and whose appointment is agreed upon by the voting members.

ARTICLE 2

Duties of Officers

President

The president is elected at the annual meeting of Masquerade and shall:

- a) act as chairman of the annual meeting and act as chairman of the general meetings of the group and meetings of the Executive.
- b) Be Ex-Officio and member of all committees and executive
- c) Have the privilege of casting tie-breaking votes when necessary at any meetings.
- d) Be a signing officer of the club

Past President

The president, on his/her retirement shall become Past President and shall continue in that office until the retirement of his/her successor as President. The Past President shall offer advice and assistance to the executive.

Vice-President

The Vice-President is elected at each annual meeting. In the absence of the President or in the event the President is unable to act, the Vice-President shall act for the President.

Treasurer

The treasurer is elected at each annual meeting and shall:

- a) prepare an annual budget for submission to and for approval by the Executive and members of the group.
- b) ensure that a bookkeeping system is operating effectively and adequate documentation of all financial transactions is maintained.
- c) ensure the preparation of monthly financial report for submission to the group
- d) ensure that a proper and complete financial statement is presented prior to the Annual General Meeting.
- e) be a co-signer, with the President, or in his absence, the Vice-President of all cheques.
- f) open and/or maintain accounts in the name of Masquerade in a recognized financial institution for the purposes of conducting the financial affairs of Masquerade.
- g) that the duties also include the responsibility of collecting and recording of registrations (dues).

Outgoing Executive

The outgoing executive shall be responsible, at the Annual General Meeting, for:

- a) Receiving of annual reports of the various comities
- b) Submission of financial reports and auditor's reports

- c) Holding elections for new officers.
- d) Submission of any matter permitted by the By-Laws of which notice has been given in writing to the secretary at least 15 days prior to the date of the Annual General Meeting.
- e) Make recommendations for the procedures to be followed for the commencement of the next year.
- f) Submit a plan outline of group activities for the following year.

New Executive

- a) The new executive shall take office at the close of the Annual General Meeting.
- b) Vacancies in the Executive or in any of its committees shall be filled by the body responsible for the original election.
- c) Regular General Meetings will be scheduled between March and February. A minimum of 10 meetings (Excluding Annual Meeting) shall be held.

Secretary

The secretary is elected at annual meeting of masquerade and shall be responsible for:

- a) the recording of annual and general meeting activities and the reproduction of the minutes of these meetings.
- b) have available for distribution copies of meeting minutes.
- c) That the duties include the responsibility of compiling a list of names which shall include the Officers of the Executive.

Program Coordinator

The program coordinator is elected at the annual meeting of Masquerade and shall be responsible for:

- a) Organizing programs, presentations, guest speakers or activities for each monthly meeting
- b) Provide a schedule of programs for listing in Masquerade publications

Events Coordinator

The events coordinator is elected at the annual meeting of Masquerade and shall be responsible for:

- a) Organizing activities and outings apart from our monthly meetings.
- b) Provide a schedule of activities and outings to the executive and members, and for listing in Masquerade publications

ARTICLE 3

Committees

Executive Committee

- a) The executive committee shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Program Coordinator, Event Coordinator, Immediate Past President and any other person deemed necessary by the nature of the meeting.
- b) The business of the group between regular meetings, may be conducted by the Executive Committee, which shall have control over all matters except those reserved by these By-Laws.
- c) The Executive Committee shall have the power to create sub-committees as the need arises.
- d) Fifty percent plus one member of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum.

Support

Newsletter

Web Site

Library

ARTICLE 4

Vacant Offices

Where an office becomes vacant by death, resignation, or inability to serve, Masquerade Executive may appoint a person to fill the vacancy, providing that person has agreed to serve.

ARTICLE 5

Tenure of Office

Each officer of the Executive shall be elected annually.

Non-Confidence Issues

Should a non-confidence issue arise with an executive member, or members, the executive has the authority to call for nominations and a re-election for that position(s). This motion would be predicated by unanimous decision, minus the person whose position is in question, from the executive. The outgoing member(s) have the right to resubmit their names for election.

ARTICLE 6

Notice of Annual and General Meetings

The notice shall be in writing and shall be made available to each voting member at least fourteen days prior to the date of the meeting and the notice shall state:

- a) the purpose of the meeting (agenda)
- b) shall contain any proposed By-Law changes
- c) a list of nominations for the office should accompany the notice of the Annual Meeting, provided that the consent of nominees have been first obtained.

ARTICLE 7

Special and/or Emergency Meetings

Emergency Executive Meetings may be held on the call of the President of three members of the Executive Committee and can be by telephone with 48 hours notice. The purpose of the meeting will be specified at the time of notice.

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Special Meetings may also be called by a voting member with the support of 51% of the group.

ARTICLE 8

Quorum

1/2 of the officers with 1/2 of the voting members shall constitute a quorum at Annual and General Meetings.

ARTICLE 9

- a) each voting member shall be entitled to one vote at meetings.
- b) associate members are not entitled to a vote.
- c) All questions submitted to the meeting shall be decided by a majority vote of the registered members present.
- d) Voting shall be by a show of hands unless 1/3 of those present shall request a ballot, in which case the vote shall be by ballot.
- e) That in the event of a tie at any committee meeting, the presiding President of Chairman shall be empowered to cast the tie-breaker.

ARTICLE 10

Finances

- a) The finances of Masquerade shall be administered by the Treasurer as directed by the Executive Committee. The necessary expenses of the group shall be met from funds secure by the membership fees and meeting dues.
- b) All funds of the Group shall be deposited to its credit in such bank or trust company as the Executive Committee shall direct. All cheques on such bank account shall be signed by the Treasurer together with any one of the following: President or Vice-President.
- c) An independent review of the Group finances shall be made for each fiscal year end. The fiscal year end shall be January 31.
- d) A proposed budget for Masquerade finances for the following year shall be presented at the Annual Meeting or the preceding meeting for acceptance at the Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE 11

Amendments

These By-Laws may be amended at any regularly called annual meeting of Masquerade, provided that a copy of the proposed amendment along with a copy of the original accompany the notice of the meeting. All amendments to these By-Laws are subject to approval of the Executive and voting members.