

***NATIONAL SISTERHOOD OF
PRESVYTERES
OF THE
GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE
OF AMERICA***



CONSTITUTION

The purpose of the Sisterhood of Presvyteres, hereafter known as NSP, shall be:

- ❖ To promote the spirit of Christian love among the Presvyteres of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.
- ❖ To provide opportunities for Presvyteres to get acquainted with one another.
- ❖ To meet periodically to discuss mutual concerns and to develop programs for outreach.

ARTICLE I: THE NATIONAL SISTERHOOD OF PRESVYTERES

SECTION 1:

The NSP shall include all the Presvyteres and Diakonisses of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. The National Sisterhood shall meet at every Archdiocesan Clergy-Laity Congress.

SECTION 2:

The spiritual advisor to the NSP is the Archbishop of America.

ARTICLE II: THE NATIONAL BOARD

SECTION 1:

The National Board of the NSP shall consist of five executive officers elected by the Presvyteres who attend the NSP Conference held at each Archdiocesan Clergy-Laity Congress.

The executive officers shall be President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer. The executive officers of the NSP shall administer the Sisterhood.

A representative to the National Board shall be elected from each of the Metropolis Sisterhoods. Each Metropolis shall have one vote, exclusive of the executive officers.

One representative to the National Board shall be elected from the retired Presvyteres, who meet at the NSP Conference held at each Archdiocesan Clergy-Laity Congress

One representative to the National Board shall be elected from the widowed Presvyteres who meet at the NSP Conference held at each Archdiocesan Clergy-Laity Congress.

The immediate Past-President shall be an ex-officio member of and shall serve as advisor to the National Board.

SECTION 2:

The duties and responsibilities of the National Board shall be:

- a. to ensure the establishment of a Sisterhood in each Metropolis of the Archdiocese.
- b. to establish communication among the Presvyteres of the Archdiocese.
- c. to coordinate national projects of the NSP
- d. to coordinate, together with the Presvyteres of the host Metropolis, the NSP Conference held at the Archdiocesan Clergy-Laity Congress.

e. to render a financial report to the membership at the NSP Conference.

SECTION 3:

Members of the National Board shall serve for a two-year term. An Executive Officer of the National Board shall not hold the same office for more than two consecutive terms.

SECTION 4:

The nominating committee shall consist of three members. The immediate Past President shall serve as chairman with two additional members. The Presbyteres attending the NSP conference shall elect the additional two members. In the event of a vacancy on the nominating committee, the executive board shall choose the replacement. Members of the Nominating Committee are not eligible to stand for election to the five executive offices.

The Nominating Committee shall accept nominations and present the names of all qualified nominees to the body of Presbyteres present at the NSP Conference held at the Archdiocesan Clergy-Laity Congress. Nominations for each office shall be taken from the floor at the first business meeting at the Clergy-Laity Congress.

SECTION 5

Responsibilities and Qualifications of the Executive Officers

The President

The President shall be elected to a two-year term and may serve a maximum of two consecutive terms.

The nominee for President shall have served at least one two-year term on the NSP National board.

The President shall be responsible for convening at least one annual meeting of the NSP Board.

The President, after each Archdiocesan Clergy-Laity Congress, shall submit the names of the members of the new NSP Board to the Archbishop and to the Hierarch of each Metropolis.

The President shall be one of the four administrators of the APC (Archdiocesan Presbyters Council) and NSP Benevolent Fund, and, along with the APC President, is responsible for generating the annual appeal letter.

The President shall be a member of each standing committee and is responsible for conferring with the committee chairmen of the various NSP projects.

The President shall represent the NSP at Archdiocesan functions whenever possible. If she cannot attend, she shall ask the Vice-President or another representative to attend.

The President shall be an ex-officio member of the Archdiocese Benefits Committee and if appointed by the Archbishop, shall be a member of the Archdiocesan Council and National Philoptochos Board.

The President shall oversee that the Constitution is adhered to in all matters concerning the NSP.

The Vice-President

The Vice-President shall be elected to a two-year term and may serve a maximum of two consecutive terms.

The nominee for Vice-President shall have served at least one two-year term on the NSP National Board

The Vice-President shall be one of the four administrators of the APC and NSP Benevolent Fund. If so deemed by the four administrators, she shall be responsible for handling the Benevolent Fund Emergency and Reserve Accounts. The Vice-President implements the annual Benevolent Fund appeal and acknowledges each contributor.

The Vice-President must submit a report of income and expenditures of the APC and NSP Benevolent fund at each NSP Board and Sisterhood general meeting.

The Vice-President may represent the President at any meeting or other function that the President cannot attend.

In the event the President is unable to complete her term, the Vice-President shall serve out the remainder of the President's term.

Recording Secretary:

The Recording Secretary shall be elected to a two-year term and may serve a maximum of two consecutive terms.

The Recording Secretary shall be responsible for keeping the minutes of all NSP Board and NSP Conference Meetings.

The Recording Secretary shall be responsible for keeping the NSP mailing list current.

Corresponding Secretary:

The Corresponding Secretary shall be elected to a two-year term and may serve a maximum of two consecutive terms.

The Corresponding Secretary shall be responsible for all NSP correspondence and the NSP Newsletter.

The Corresponding Secretary shall be responsible for sending sympathy cards on behalf of the NSP to the family of a deceased family member.

The Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be elected to a two-year term and may serve a maximum of two consecutive terms.

The Treasurer shall be responsible for maintaining the NSP financial account(s).

The Treasurer shall be chairman of the NSP Stewardship and shall maintain a record of donations.

The Treasurer shall submit a report of income and expenditures at each NSP Board Meeting and NSP Conference.

The Treasurer shall be responsible for sending a donation in memory of a recently deceased Priest or Presvytera to the APC/NSP Benevolent Fund.

SECTION 6:

In the event the Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary or Treasurer is unable to complete her term, the office shall be filled by the NSP Board from its members.

SECTION 7:

The National Board shall meet at least once a year at a site(s) to be determined by the President in consultation with the executive officers. The National Board shall also meet on the day before the opening session and after the closing session of each Archdiocesan Clergy-Laity Congress.

SECTION 8

The NSP treasury shall reimburse the expenses of the President and/or her delegate in the execution of her duties.

Expenses of the Executive Officers to the NSP Board meetings shall be reimbursed by the NSP treasury.

SECTION 9

The NSP treasury shall be established by an annual stewardship offering from each Presvytera.

ARTICLE III STANDING COMMITTEES:

The President shall appoint the chairman of each of the following standing committees. These chairmen may attend the NSP National Board meetings but do not have voting privileges.

Caregivers
Historian
National Retreat
Sister-To-Sister
The Listening Connection (TLC)
Web Site

ARTICLE IV: METROPOLIS SISTERHOODS

SECTION 1:

Each Metropolis shall have a Metropolis Presbyteres Sisterhood, which shall meet at least once a year. The spiritual advisor to the Sisterhood is the Metropolis Hierarch who shall be informed of all such meetings and other events.

SECTION 2:

The Metropolis Sisterhood shall offer opportunities for fellowship and communication among all Presbyteres of the Metropolis.

SECTION 3:

An elected officer or a Metropolis Board Representative shall administer the Sisterhood and shall preside at all its meetings.

SECTION 4

At a meeting prior to or at the Archdiocesan Clergy-Laity Congress, each Metropolis Sisterhood shall elect officers, a Metropolis board, or district representatives to administer the Metropolis Sisterhood and to preside at all its meetings.

SECTION 5:

At a meeting held prior to or at the Archdiocesan Clergy-Laity Congress, each Metropolis Sisterhood shall elect one representative to the NSP board. An alternate also shall be elected. The alternate shall represent the Metropolis representative when she is unable to perform her duties.

SECTION 6

The Metropolis Representative shall serve of maximum of two consecutive terms.

SECTION 7

If the Representative and the Alternate Representative of a Metropolis Sisterhood can no longer hold the position to which they were elected, then the Metropolis Sisterhood shall elect another Representative. If this is not feasible, then the NSP President, in consultation with the Metropolis Hierarch, shall appoint a Metropolis Representative.

SECTION 8

Expenses of the Metropolis Representative to the NSP Board meetings shall be reimbursed by the Metropolis Sisterhood treasury whenever possible.

SECTION 9

The treasury of the Metropolis Sisterhood shall be established by an annual stewardship offering from each Presvytera.

ARTICLE V: AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1:

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Presbyteres meeting at the NSP Conference during the Archdiocesan Clergy-Laity Congress.

SECTION 2:

Proposed amendments to the NSP Constitution shall be submitted to the NSP Board at least ninety (90) days prior to the NSP Conference convened at the Archdiocesan Clergy-Laity Congress.

The membership of the NSP shall be informed in writing of all proposed amendments to the Constitution at least thirty (30) days prior to the National Sisterhood of Presbyteres Conference convened at the Archdiocesan Clergy-Laity Congress.

SECTION 3:

Upon ratification, any and all constitutional changes and/or amendments shall be effective immediately.

ARTICLE VI

For purpose of procedure, whenever the NSP Constitution is not explicit, Robert's Rules of Order shall apply.

Adopted Clergy-Laity Congress
July 2004