

# GLAD Constitution Dated October 15, 2001

## CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE GAY AND LESBIAN ASSOCIATION OF DECATUR, ILLINOIS (GLAD)

### I. Name of the Organization:

This organization will be known as the Gay and Lesbian Association of Decatur, Illinois (GLAD).

### II. Purpose of the Organization:

The purpose of GLAD is to help the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender community to come together to support each other; to provide a conducive atmosphere to socialize; to educate the members of GLAD regarding cultural/sexual diversity; and to promote self acceptance in being Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual or Transgender.

### III. Membership:

Membership is open to anyone who has an interest in the welfare of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender community. Membership in GLAD does not indicate sexual orientation of the members.

Membership is confidential. **ADD: Membership is attained by attending a social/informational meeting and by agreeing to receive the newsletter.**

**DELETE: Membership is attained by signing up and paying an annual fee established by the executive committee. Membership is renewed at the annual meeting.**

### IV. Board of Directors/Officers:

The BOARD OF DIRECTORS shall be the governing body of GLAD. It shall be responsible for establishing and carrying out the policies and activities of GLAD and for administering and accounting for all GLAD funds. There will be an effort made to balance the officers between male and female participants. The following officers will constitute the Board of Directors:

A. Two Co-Chairs: one male and one female. Duties will include, but not be limited to, conducting Board meetings; representing GLAD at appropriate functions; and overseeing the general direction of the organization.

B. Secretary: Duties will include, but not be limited to, producing the monthly newsletter with help from the Co-Chairs; doing the mailing of the newsletter; **ADD: maintaining the mailing list, DELETE: maintain membership records; and performing other duties as assigned by the Co-Chairs.**

C. Treasurer: Duties will include, but not be limited to, collecting all monies; paying bills; keeping accurate records; reporting our financial status to the Co-Chairs; and perform other duties as assigned by the Co-Chairs.

D. Historian: Duties will include, but not be limited to, maintaining an historical record of the organization (this may include newspaper articles, contacts with other organizations, photographs, scrap book, etc.); and performing other duties as assigned by the Co-Chairs.

E. Board Member At Large (2): Duties will include, but are not limited to, assisting the Board with programs and duties related to official Board activities; contributing individual talents to the Board; and perform other duties as assigned by the Co-Chairs.

### V. Committees:

A. Public Relations: This will be the spokesperson for the association responsible for dealing with the media.

B. Political Action: This committee will provide information to the members concerning local, state, and national issues that would be of concern to the members.

C. Membership: **ADD: Will oversee recruitment and retention of GLAD members. DELETE: Will provide assistance to the Secretary for keeping the membership records.**

## **VI. Meetings:**

The Annual meeting will take place in October. A quorum will be established with 10 persons present. The Board of Directors will meet monthly. There will be a monthly social/information exchange for the general membership.

## **VII. Election of Officers, Vacating of Office, Provision for Removal or Sanctioning of Officers:**

A. Nominations for the Board of Directors/Officers will be made from the floor during the September *(ADD:) and October* social/informational meeting with voting to take place during the annual meeting in October. Names of those nominated will be listed in the newsletter.

*ADD: Effective October 2008 executive officer positions will be served in alternating two-year terms. The male co-chair and secretary will be elected to a two-year term in October 2008; the female co-chair and treasurer will be elected to a two-year term in October 2009.*

*To facilitate this change, the Board shall ask the female co-chair and treasurer to serve for two years from October 2007 to October 2009.*

*The historian and Board Member at Large positions will remain annually elected positions.*

B. If an officer vacates an office, the Board of Directors will appoint a replacement to finish the term of that officer.

C. In order to maintain an effectively functioning Board of Directors, the Board will replace any Board member who has three (3) or more unexcused absences from the monthly Board meetings. The definition of unexcused referred in will be defined as the neglect to inform any attending Board member of inability to be present at a Board meeting. The exception to this definition is the illness or emergency of the member or the member's family. Any question of the validity of this excuse will be resolved by a secret ballot of the Board of Directors. The Board will hold sole discretion as to the replacement of the Board member for the unfilled portion of the term.

In this vein, members of the Board of Directors are expected to fulfill the obligations of their respective positions. If a member is unable to briefly complete his/her respective tasks, it is expected that the said member will obtain a suitable replacement to satisfy his/her aforementioned duties. If a Board member consistently neglects his/her duties, he/she will be subject to sanctions up to and including replacement by the Board of Directors. The decision to sanction will be made by the Board by secret ballot. The sanctioned member will be notified by the Co-Chairs, either in writing or verbally, as to results of the vote.

## **VIII. Amending the Constitution:**

Any proposed change to this Constitution will be provided to members at least ten days prior to the meeting where the change will be voted on. The Constitution will be amended by a 2/3 majority of those members present, by ballot.

## **IX. Ratification:**

Ratified August 14, 1993.

Amended October, 1994:

Amendment One: Provision for filling a vacated office. (VII,B) Amendment Two: Added office of Historian. (IV,D)

Amended October, 1997:

Amendment Three: Added 2 Board Members at Large. (IV,E) Amendment Four: Provision for Replacement or Sanctioning of Board members. (VII,C)

Amended October, 2001:

Amendment Five: Added Transgender to Purpose and Membership. (II &III) Amendment Six: Changed from Chair and Vice-Chair to Two Co-Chairs, one male and one female (IV, A & references throughout)