

Constitution and Bylaws of the Gay Activists Alliance

Approved in General Meeting December 21, 1969
Amended: July 30, 1971; February 25, 1971:
May 20, 1971; February 24, 1972; March 2, 1972.

Preamble

WE AS LIBERATED HOMOSEXUAL ACTIVISTS demand the freedom for expression of our dignity and value as human beings through confrontation with and disarmament of all mechanisms which unjustly inhibit us: economic, social, and political. Before the public conscience, we demand an immediate end to all oppression of homosexuals and the immediate unconditional recognition of these basic rights:

THE RIGHT TO OUR OWN FEELINGS. This is the right to feel attracted to the beauty of members of our own sex and to embrace those feelings as truly our own, free from any question or challenge whatsoever by any other person, institution, or "moral authority."

THE RIGHT TO LOVE. This is the right to express our feelings in action, the right to make love with anyone, anyway, anytime, provided only that such action be freely chosen by individuals concerned.

THE RIGHT TO OUR OWN BODIES. This is the right to treat and express our bodies as we will, to nurture, display and embellish them solely in the manner we ourselves determine independent of any external control whatsoever.

THE RIGHT TO BE PERSONS. This is the right freely to express our own individuality under the governance of laws justly made and executed, and to be the bearers of social and political rights which are guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States and the Bill of Rights, enjoined upon all legislative bodies and courts, and grounded in the fact of our common humanity.

To secure these rights, we hereby institute the Gay Activists Alliance, which shall be completely and solely dedicated to their implementation and maintenance, repudiating, at the same time, violence (except for the right of self-defense) as unworthy of social protest, disdaining all ideologies, whether political or social, and forbearing alliance with any group except for those whose concrete actions are likewise so specifically dedicated.

It is finally to the imagination of oppressed homosexuals themselves that we commend the consideration of these rights, upon whose actions alone depends all hope for the prospect of their lasting procurement.

Article I. Names and Objectives

The name is the Gay Activists Alliance and the purposes are those stated in the preamble.

Article II. Membership Eligibility and Selection.

Section 1. Every person who has attended at least three meetings within a period of six consecutive meetings is eligible for membership. If not challenged, he or she becomes a member on payment of entrance fee and remains a member so long as he or she attends one general membership meeting a month, unless expelled from membership in accordance with section 3 below.

Section 2. In order to reinstate one's membership in GAA a person must attend two general membership meetings in a month and attend 3 out of 6 consecutive meeting of one committee or subcommittee.

Section 3. A person may be expelled on recommendation of the executive committee, which recommendation shall not be approved until after the member shall have been given the opportunity of being heard at a general meeting and on approval at that meeting by at least two-thirds of the members attending.

Section 4. The executive committee can veto a persons application for membership. A two-thirds vote of the general membership is necessary to overrule the veto.

Article III. Officers

Section 1. The officers are a president, a vice-president, a secretary, and a treasurer.

Subsection A. Duties of the President.

The president is the chief executive officer of the organization. He presides at all meetings of the executive committee. He speaks on behalf of, and in the name of, the organization whenever a matter in the organizations field of interest is raised and requires presentation of the organization's point of view. He is an ex officio member of all committees.

Subsection B. The duties of the vice-president are delegated to him by the president. The duties of the other officers are the ones usually associated with those titles.

Section 2. The officers of the organization, the delegate at large, and the chairpersons of the committees constitute the executive committee.

Section 3. The executive committee has all the powers of the organization, except for actions not authorized by the general meeting, in the intervals between meetings. The committee will meet on call by the president.

Section 4. Elections will be held at an annual meeting. Candidates will be nominated from the floor. The offices will be filled by written ballot. The candidate receiving the majority of votes is elected. In the event that none of the candidates receives a majority, ballots will be held between the top two candidates until one receives a simple majority.

Section 5. Initial officers will take office immediately upon election, and all future officers shall assume office on the first day of the month which next follows the month during which they were elected. They serve until their successors are installed.

Section 6. A motion of no confidence in an officer or delegate at large shall always and only be in order if seconded by at least three persons and if not previously made during the same meeting. No other business shall be conducted until the motion is put to a vote. If the motion is passed by a majority of the total membership, the office in question shall be vacated and elections held at once for a successor to fill the remainder of the term. In any such election, the person who originally held the office shall be eligible to run for re-election.

Section 7. The delegate at large shall be elected semi-annually and shall serve as a liaison between the general membership and the executive committee.

Section 8. No person may be elected to the same office or as delegate at large, for more than two consecutive terms.

Article IV. Meetings.

The organization shall meet on call of the president or the executive committee. The president shall appoint one or more parliamentarians as his representatives who shall preside at all regular and special meetings of the organization.

Article V. Committees.

Section 1. The number of committees, their names and functions, shall be determined by vote of the general membership. In the event of a vacancy in committee chairpersonship, the president shall convene and consult with the committee and nominate to the general membership someone to fill the vacancy. If the committee desires it may present an alternate nominee at the same time. Confirmation shall be by a majority vote of the general membership present and voting. Both the executive, unless subsequently overruled by the membership, and the membership itself by vote shall each have the power to terminate the tenure of office of the appointed chairperson. (Article V. continued page 4)

(Article V. concluded)

Section 2. The number of subcommittees of any committee, their names and functions shall be determined by vote of the general membership, or in the absence of a determination by the latter, by the members of the committee itself. The chairperson of a committee shall be the official spokesman for the committee and its presiding officer. A proposal to remove a committee chairperson may be brought to the floor by any member, provided notice of intent has been given. A majority of the members present and voting shall be required to confirm the proposal. The vice-chairperson of a committee shall be nominated by the chairperson of the committee, subject to the approval of the committee. The vice-chairperson shall act with the powers of the chairperson in his absence at any official G.A.A. function or at meetings of the executive committee. The vice-chairperson of a committee may be removed from office by a majority vote of the members of the committee. The chairperson of a subcommittee shall be nominated by the chairperson of the parent committee, subject to the approval of the members of the subcommittee. The chairperson of a subcommittee may be removed from office by a majority vote of members of the subcommittee.

Section 3. A person may become a member of a committee of G.A.A., who is a member of G.A.A. and who attends any three committee meetings or subcommittee meetings out of any six consecutive meetings.

Section 4. A person may remain a member of a G.A.A. committee by attending at least half of the scheduled committee meetings or subcommittee meetings each month or if he or she is an active participant in committee work as determined by majority vote of the committee.

Section 5. Only committee members may vote at committee meetings.

Section 6. All committee members shall be responsible to their chairperson for their proper performance of their duties, and all committee chairpersons, to the executive committee. In case of dispute to which a committee is a party, no appeal shall be made to the floor until the executive committee shall have had the opportunity of considering the question.

Section 7. On the election of a new president all committee chairpersons shall submit their resignations.

Article VI. Amendments and Bylaws.

All amendments and bylaws must be approved by a two-thirds vote of attending members at two consecutive meetings.

Bylaws

Article I. The Gay Activists Alliance will not endorse, ally with, or otherwise support any political party, candidate for public office and/or any organization not directly related to the homosexual cause. The Gay Activists Alliance will not align itself with any organization that advocates the use of violence(except self-defense).

Article II. A quorum to do business shall be one-third of the total membership if that total is two hundred members or less. Otherwise a quorum shall be one-fourth of the total membership.

Article III. There is a suggested donation of 50¢ for attendance at any Gay Activist Alliance Meeting.

Article IV. The entrance fee shall be \$1.00

Article V. Meetings shall be conducted according to Roberts Rules of Order except when such rules conflict with provisions of the Constitution or Bylaws, which shall take precedence.

Back to Gay Activists Alliance