

Chios Society of Cleveland

Constitution and By-Laws of Chios Society / Chapter 7

Cleveland, Ohio 1937



6th Annual Chios Convention | July 4-6th, 1946 | Hotel Carter | Cleveland, Ohio

A Member of
CHIOS SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

English Translation 1998



OUR PURPOSE

We the American Citizens born on the island of Chios, Greece, and our children born in the United States pledge our united efforts:

1. To encourage our members to appreciate the privilege of citizenship and participate in the political civic and social life of our adopted country.
2. To educate our members and teach the principles, ideals and doctrines the Government of the United States, to promote loyalty and allegiance to the laws, and constitution of the United States.
3. To cultivate high moral standards and promote good fellowship, Goodwill and cooperation among our members.
4. To unite ourselves for benevolent, and philanthropic purposes.
5. To provide scholarships for high school graduates as determined by the criteria and standards set by the Society.

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
OF
CHIOS SOCIETY – CHAPTER NO. 7
CLEVELAND, OHIO**

ORIGIN OF SOCIETY

On December 6, 1937, the residents of the city of Greater Cleveland, Ohio and of Chios extraction met and founded what was originally known as the Chios Mutual Benefit Society.

NAME OF SOCIETY

The name of the Society shall be

**“THE CHIOS SOCIETY – CHAPTER #7
(A MEMBER OF CHIOS SOCIETIES OF AMERICA AND CANADA, INC.)”**

BY-LAWS & OBLIGATIONS OF ITS MEMBERS

1. It is the obligation of every member of the Society to read and familiarize himself/herself with the foregoing Constitution and By-Laws of this organization.
2. Attendance at the meetings is urged; and abidance to the constitution; and adherence to all of the rulings, decisions, and to all matters passed by the members of all meetings irrespective of the fact that a member may have been absent from the meeting.
3. It is greatly urged the order and good conduct shall prevail at all meetings, and social functions.
4. Each member shall upon proper recognition by the President present his/her ideas, motions, etc., according to good order.
5. Upon obtaining the floor each member shall speak on the topic, before the body for discussion and shall accept the decisions of the body without prejudice and in the spirit of fellowship.
6. Each member shall have the right to ask the executive members for accounting and report relative to the standing of the Society.
7. Any member elected to an office or appointed on any committee shall perform his/her duties earnestly and in the best of his/her ability. In the event any such member is not in a position to undertake and maintain such duties, then he/she shall notify the President in advance of such decision.
8. In the event of death or illness of any member, the Executive Board shall be notified or said death or illness.
9. Each member shall pay his/her dues promptly in order to protect his/her benefits said Society.

ARTICLE I – MEMBERSHIP

Persons eligible for membership are:

1. Those of Chios extraction.
2. Individuals who marry into the family of Chios extraction.
3. Those who are listed in the bureau of vital statistics of the Isle of Chios.
4. Individuals who are at least 18 years of age

The Society shall have *family memberships or individual memberships*. Family memberships shall include husband and wife, either of whom qualifies for membership and does become a member and shall be entitled to benefits of this society as herein provided under family membership. There can only be one beneficiary, who shall be entitled to death benefits. Individual membership may include a male or female who qualifies for membership and is automatically the beneficiary as herein provided.

No member, either individual, husband or wife, other than those of Chian extraction can be eligible for election to the presidency of this Society.

All members including individuals, husbands or wives are eligible for every office of said Society except as herein provided.

Each individual member prior to his/her membership shall be of good character in his/her community, and shall pay an initiation fee of five dollars (\$5), plus membership dues of fifteen (\$15) the first year, and fifteen (\$15) each year thereafter.

Families that include a husband and wife shall be of good character in the community, and shall pay an initiation fee of five dollars (\$5), plus membership dues of twenty (\$20) the first year, and twenty (\$20) each year thereafter.

Each member (family or individual) upon payment of initiation fee and dues shall be eligible to vote on all matters of the Society but in no event shall be eligible for office until twelve (12) months after payment of said fee and dues.

ARTICLE II – DEATH BENEFITS

In the event of the death of any member of the Society or of the Supreme President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer in office, the Society shall provide a wreath at a reasonable cost.

In the event of the death of any member (individual, husband or wife) in good standing of our Society, the estate of the deceased shall receive the following death benefit:

1. The estate of members in good standing who became members prior to January 1, 1976 shall receive the sum of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500).
2. The estate of members in good standing who became members after January 1, 1976, shall receive the following benefits based on years of membership:

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| 1 to 5 years | \$50 |
| 5 years and one day to 10 years | \$100 |
| 10 years and one day to 15 years | \$200 |
| 15 years and one day to 20 years | \$300 |
| Over 20 years | \$500 |

3. In the event of the death of any family member (husband or wife), membership shall then change to individual membership with the lower membership fees in effect. The surviving member must then continue to pay dues as an individual member if he/she wishes to continue to be entitled to benefits by the Society as herein provided. Death benefits for the surviving member shall commence per the scale stated in Article II, Paragraph 2.
4. *"Life membership" may be granted to those individuals, husbands or wives, who have paid dues on a timely basis for at least 50 consecutive years. "Life members" are no longer required to pay dues, and he/she may request in writing, individually or through immediate family members such as spouses or anyone holding power of attorney to receive the death benefit in advance payment, due to needs such as illness, health or mental health, age or economic needs. Approval of life membership and advance of death benefits must be raised by the Executive Board, and/or approval by general assembly. Death Benefits can be paid only once.*

In order for any member to be eligible for the above death benefit, he/she must have been in good standing, and the member must have abided by the Constitution of the Society.

Any membership of this Society that has been in good standing for at least 6 months, who may even relocate, can still be eligible for the death benefits provided said membership status continues to remain in good standing with the Society.

In the event of the hospitalization of any member or a spouse for a period of at least three or more days, the Society shall send a get-well card and fruit basket to that person(s).

ARTICLE III – CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

The Society shall sponsor a dance in November or at any other suitable date to celebrate the liberation of the Isle of Chios.

The Entertainment Committee shall be responsible for all necessary arrangements and shall do its utmost to provide adequate publicity to insure the success of said affair.

The Society in honor of its membership shall sponsor a glendi or social for the benefit and entertainment of its members and their immediate families living in the same household. Such glendi will be scheduled at the convenience of the membership.

The Society through its Entertainment Committee shall if possible arrange for a picnic each year.

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP DUES

Any member who is delinquent for 12 months or more shall lose all benefits herein.

A member shall regain his/her benefits only upon payment of the current year's dues. The following years dues are due January first per Article I.

Any member who brings discredit upon the Society shall be subject to expulsion.

Any member who uses the Society for his/her own benefit shall be expelled.

Before any member can be expelled for discrediting the Society or for using said Society for his/her benefit, two members in good standing must present sufficient evidence to substantiate their charges. Such expulsion shall become effective only in the event of 2/3 majority of members in good standing present and in attendance at the meeting called for such purpose vote for the expulsion. Thirty (30) day notice shall be given to the membership of said meeting and purpose.

ARTICLE V – GRIEVANCES

In the event of any grievance that arises between any members of the Society pertaining to the Society matters, then such member or members shall direct a letter to the Secretary stating the grievance.

The Secretary shall upon receipt of said letter refer same to the Executive Board which shall take necessary action to settle the grievance.

The Executive Board shall arrange a specific date wherein a hearing will be conducted before the members of the Society and the Executive Board. Notice of such hearing will be given to the involved members to appear and present their grievance. In the event of failure of anyone of the parties failing to show such party or both parties, shall be deemed responsible for said grievance.

ARTICLE VI – EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Executive Board shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and any other committees deemed necessary. All of the above officers and committees shall offer their services gratuitously.

ARTICLE VII – DUTIES & POWERS OF THE OFFICERS

The President

1. The President shall be the head and presiding officer of the Chapter; and shall do all things necessary and proper to promote the growth, expansion, efficient functioning and general welfare of the Chapter.
2. It shall be the duty of the President to enforce the Constitution, rules and regulations of the order and to encourage strict adherence thereto among the officers and members of the Chapter.
3. The President shall have the power to open and close the meetings and also to suspend any meeting for the good of the Order.
4. The President shall have the power to appoint such committees as by whom he/she may deem necessary to carry on either the regular or special work of the Chapter; to instruct such committees in their respective duties; to hold them accountable for the performances of the services assigned to them with full powers of dismissal and substitution.

Vice President

The Vice President shall assist the President in conducting the business of the Chapter and to perform such duties as may be assigned either by the President or by the Chapter. In the event of the absence, disqualification or disability of the President, the Vice President shall assume and perform the duties of the President.

The Secretary

The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings and conduct all correspondence delegated by the President. No communication shall be official without the Seal of the Chapter. The Secretary shall collect dues from members and turn them over to the Treasurer immediately after collection; and shall countersign all receipts for dues.

The Treasurer

1. The Treasurer shall receive all monies coming to the Chapter, care for the finances, and pay expenditures for the Chapter.
2. All checks issued by the Treasurer shall be countersigned by the President.
3. All funds collected by the Treasurer shall be deposited immediately in the Chapter's designated bank.
4. In case of the death of a member in good standing the Treasurer shall issue a check in the appropriate amount to the estate of the deceased.
5. The Executive Board shall be held responsible for any funds that are misappropriated.

Absenteeism of Elected Officers

Any elected officer of the Chapter may be removed from office if he/she fails to attend three consecutive meetings thereof unless he/she give satisfactory explanation for his/her absence acceptable to the members.

ARTICLE VIII – STANDING COMMITTEES

Auditing Committee

1. It shall be the duty of the committee to audit the books of the Chapter every three months or anytime it deems it necessary. It shall be responsible for any misappropriation of funds due to its oversight.
2. The committee shall give a detailed account of its findings to the members at the next regular meeting after the audit.

Entertainment Committee

The duties of this Committee is to arrange for and to provide wholesome programs of entertainment and to promote goodwill amongst the members.

Scholarship Committee

The duties of this Committee shall be to set standards and criteria for scholarships that will be awarded to high school graduates.

ARTICLE IX – MEETINGS

1. In all meetings the Robert’s Rule of Order Revised shall prevail.
2. The President shall conduct the meeting in an orderly manner and shall refuse to accept any motions which are contrary to the Constitution.
3. The President while standing shall announce any motions that is put on the floor.
4. If any member wishes to be recognized he/she may do so by raising his/her hand.
5. No member shall speak more than twice on the same subject nor more than five minutes each time unless he/she is given permission by the members and confines him/herself to the same subject without any offensive remarks.
6. The President shall recognize the first member who asks for the floor. In the event that more than one member shall ask for the floor the President shall use his/her own judgment.
7. No one shall interrupt or stop any recognized speaker who has the floor except the President and then only if the speaker is out of order.
8. A motion may be withdrawn only by its author.
9. A motion may be voted on by the raising of hands.

ARTICLE X – MEETINGS & QUORUMS

1. Meetings shall be held at least every two (2) months or as otherwise determined necessary. Special meetings may be called for by the President, or as otherwise provided herein.
2. The Executive Board shall meet quarterly, or as otherwise determined.
3. A special meeting may be called by the President or by 10 members of good standing upon written request and explaining the reason for doing so.
4. In order to establish a quorum there must be at least seven (7) members of good standing present. The Executive Board must have three (3) members for a quorum at executive meetings.
5. If a quorum is not established at a regular scheduled meeting a notice shall be sent out for a new meeting within two (2) weeks or a reasonable time thereafter as determined by those present and the members who attend the newly scheduled meeting shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE XI – AGENDA OF THE MEETINGS

The agenda for meetings shall be as follows:

1. Reading of the minutes of the previous meeting
2. Report of the Treasurer
3. Reading of correspondence
4. Report of Committees
5. Unfinished Business
6. New Business
7. For the good of the Order

ARTICLE XII – ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS

1. Elections shall be held biannually on the regularly scheduled meeting in December.
2. A delinquent member cannot vote or be voted on.
3. All voting shall be by open ballot unless a request is made for a secret ballot.
4. A temporary committee shall count the ballots.
5. The new Executive Board will assume office and take possession of the signed records after taking its oath in January.
6. The oath will be taken in Greek and/or English.

ARTICLE XIII – POSITIONS IN POLITICAL AND ECCLESIASTIC AFFAIRS

The Chapter shall be Non-Partisan in politics and shall take no position in ecclesiastical affairs.

ARTICLE XIV – CHAPTER LOGO

The Logo of the Chapter shall be the Terminal Tower with imposed thereon the geographical Shape of the Island of Chios with the words, "*Chios Society – Chapter 7*" encircled around it.

ARTICLE XV – DISSOLUTION

This Chapter was established on December 6, 1937, based on its solid foundation it proposes never to dissolve. Should its membership be reduced to eight members, it shall strive to reorganize within two years' time. In case of dissolution, said eight members will decide, if available, some charity for the Island of Chios.

ARTICLE XVI – AMENDMENTS

Whatever is not provided in this Constitution that is beneficial to the Chapter can be enacted at a regularly scheduled meeting by 2/3 majority present at a regularly scheduled meeting to become part of this Constitution, provided written notice is given to all members in good standing 20 days in advance and noted on the invitation notice.

ARTICLE XVII – EFFECTIVE DATES

This Constitution was again read Article by Article and recognized and approved by the General Assembly on December 21, 1997, to become effective on January 1, 1998. Said Constitution can be amended and Articles added or changed thereto by 2/3 majority of the members of said Society, present at a regularly scheduled meeting provided written notice is given to all members in good standing 20 days in advance and noted on the invitation notice.

Family and individual membership in this Society, including all dues, initiation fees and benefits herein provided in Articles I and II became effective beginning January 1, 1992.

In case of any disputes arising between the Greek and American versions of the Constitution, the English version shall prevail.

NOTES