

**NATIONAL CONSTITUTION OF
RHO ALPHA SIGMA
HONORARY SOCIETY**

Article I

NAME

The name of this organization shall be Rho Alpha Sigma Honorary Society, hereafter referred to as Rho Alpha Sigma, or Rho Alpha.

Article II

PURPOSE

The purposes of Rho Alpha Sigma shall be:

- Section 1. To promote the recognition of outstanding efforts of Resident Advisors (RA or RAs) or their equivalent at all member chapters of the organization.
- Section 2. To encourage excellence in performance of the RA position.
- Section 3. To promote the student affairs profession amongst the most skilled RAs.
- Section 4. To serve as an outlet of service and education to the Resident Advisor community.
- Section 5. The organization is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Article III

MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1. Chapter membership in Rho Alpha Sigma shall be open to any institution of higher education employing paraprofessional employees meeting the definition of Resident Advisor or its equivalent as stated in organizational bylaws.
- Section 2. Chapter membership in Rho Alpha Sigma will be granted to institutions that have made appropriate application to the national organization and have accepted and adopted institutional constitution and bylaw stipulations.

- Section 3. Associate membership in Rho Alpha Sigma is granted to any individual duly inducted as a member of Rho Alpha Sigma by a chapter member in good standing.
- Section 4. The term of membership shall be continual for the period of time the chapter or associate member remains in good standing with the national organization (see Bylaws, Article IV and V, for definition of chapter or associate standing).

Article IV
OFFICERS

- Section 1. Each chapter member shall designate one voting delegate. The voting delegate shall represent the opinion of the chapter through participating in all official ballots of the national organization.

Article V
BALLOT MEASURES

- Section 1. Each chapter member shall have one vote for any official ballots put forward by the national organization, regardless of chapter size.
- Section 2. A simple majority shall determine the results of any issue that is brought to ballot, with the exception of amendments to the constitution.
- Section 3. Any voting delegate can bring forth a ballot measure to be voted upon. Ballot measures must be presented in writing to the national office and thence to voting delegates one month prior to voting.
- Section 4. A simple majority of voting delegates must vote in a ballot measure to constitute a quorum.

Article VI
DISSOLUTION

- Section 1. Upon the dissolution of this organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose.

Article VII
AMENDMENTS

Section 1. The Constitution of Rho Alpha Sigma Honorary Society may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the voting delegates.

Section 2. Amendments to the Constitution may be proposed by any chapter member or associate member of Rho Alpha Sigma. Such proposals must be submitted in writing to the national office of Rho Alpha Sigma and shall be presented to the voting delegates following the stipulated waiting period for proposals.

**BYLAWS OF
RHO ALPHA SIGMA
HONORARY SOCIETY**

Article I

DEFINITION OF A RESIDENT ADVISOR OR EQUIVALENT

A Resident Advisor or its equivalent (community assistant, resident assistant, etc.) is any student hired by a department of residence or its equivalent wherein the student's primary responsibilities include providing a live-in, community presence in a residence hall or its equivalent and whose responsibilities relate to administration, educational programming, policy enforcement, leadership and community development, and emergency/crisis response operations. Resident Advisors must serve, organizationally, under the supervision of a Hall Director or its equivalent.

**Article II
FUNDS**

At the discretion of the national office, Rho Alpha Sigma funds may be used to cover the normal operating expenses of the organization.

**Article III
CHAPTER MEMEBERSHIP**

Section 1. Chapter membership will be granted when-

- a) The appropriate chapter application has been received
- b) The chapter has accepted and adopted national organization constitutional and bylaw stipulations.

- Section 2. New chapter members will be given a designation of a Greek letter(s) at the time of acceptance. Chapter members will use this designation in any official use of their name (e.g. Rho Alpha Sigma, Alpha Chapter).
- Section 3. Chapter members must adhere to the provided institutional charter unless prior permission has been gained from the National Board of Directors.
- Section 4. Chapter members must adhere to the provided institutional bylaws unless prior permission has been gained from the national office.

Article IV
CHAPTER STANDING

- Section 1. Chapter members shall hold one of the following standing designations:
- a) Good standing
 - b) Probationary: Chapter members may be placed on probation for
 - a. Demonstrating conduct considered oppositional to organizational values.
 - b. Failing to vote in two consecutive or any three calendar-year ballot measures
 - c. Failing to adhere to organization constitutional or bylaw stipulations without prior consent.
 - c) Suspended: Chapter members may be suspended for-
 - a. Demonstrating egregious conduct considered oppositional to organizational values.
 - b. Failing to take corrective action to gain good standing after being placed on probation.
 - d) Inactive: Chapter members will be considered inactive when
 - a. They have been placed on suspension.
 - b. There have been no new members inducted in a two year period.
- Section 2. Chapter members on probation will be able to regain good standing by-
- a) Correcting any conduct considered oppositional to organizational values.
 - b) Voting in three consecutive ballot measures following the beginning of the period of probation.
 - c) Correcting any violation of organization constitutional or bylaw stipulations.
- Section 3. Suspended chapter members will be able to regain good standing by-
- a) Correcting any conduct considered oppositional to organizational values.

b) Correcting any chapter deficiencies that caused the chapter to be suspended.

- Section 4. Inactive chapter members will be able to regain good standing by-
- a) Taking needed measures to remove probation or suspension designations.
 - b) Requesting good standing and assuring new members to the chapter will be inducted in the next two academic years.

Section 5. Suspended chapter members will not have voting rights in organizational ballot measures.

Section 6. Inactive chapter members must demonstrate ability to gain good standing in order to regain voting rights in organizational ballot measures.

Article V **ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. Chapter members shall be allowed to induct four (4) Resident Assistants or their equivalent or ten percent (10%) of their Resident Assistant population, whichever is greater, each academic year.

Section 2. Associate members shall hold one of the following standing designations:

- a) Recognized
- b) Unrecognized: unrecognized members are those who have been suspended by the chapter member that inducted the associate.

Section 3. Unrecognized members will obtain recognized status when the chapter member that suspended the associate has removed the suspension.

Article VI **GOVERNANCE**

Section 1. The affairs of Rho Alpha Sigma shall be governed by the National Chairs in consultation with the National Board of Directors.

Article VII **NATIONAL CHAIRS**

Section 1. The officers of the National Chairs shall be the National President; the National Vice President/President Elect; the National Operations Chair; the National Communications Chair; the National Philanthropy, Service, and Recognitions Chair; the National Educational Programs Chair, and the

Regional Chairs (Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Southeast, Great Lakes, Midwest, Southwest, Northwest, and West)..

A. The National Chairs shall vote on all ballot measures brought before the Chairs except for the National President who will only vote in case of a tie in Rho Alpha Sigma Chair business meetings.

- Section 2. The National President is an elected student position responsible for organization and leadership of semiannual National Chairs' meetings and is responsible for oversight of National Chair business.
- Section 3. The National Vice President/President Elect is an elected student position responsible for elections, ballots, and constitutional revision. The National Vice President acts in the stead of the President.
- Section 4. The National Operations Chair is an elected student responsible for National Order budgets; in concert with Director of Operations the National Operations Chair coordinates quarterly budget reports, formulates budget recommendations, and develops and oversees the National Scholarship program.
- Section 5. The National Communications Chair is an elected student responsible for routine communication with chapters and members through paper and electronic means. The National Communications Chair is responsible for website content, printed and electronic marketing material, and ensures Order insignia are appropriately used. The National Communications Chair develops professional correspondence.
- Section 6. The National Philanthropy, Service, and Recognitions chair is an elected student position responsible for the development and recognition of philanthropy and service projects, creates new opportunities for chapters to participate in service and philanthropy, develops methods to recognize outstanding efforts of members and chapters, and coordinates Points of Distinction effort for the Order.
- Section 7. The National Educational Programs Chair is an elected student position responsible for the development of educational offerings for members and chapters.
- Section 8. The National Regional Chairs are regionally elected student positions responsible for representing chapters from their respective regions.

- A. The Northeast Region shall be comprised of chapters from the states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut.
- B. The Mid-Atlantic Region shall be comprised of chapters from the states of Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and North Carolina.
- C. The Southeast Region shall be comprised of chapters from the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia, Florida, and South Carolina.
- D. The Great Lakes Region shall be comprised of chapters from Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, and Kentucky.
- E. The Midwest Region shall be comprised of chapters from North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Minnesota, Iowa, and Missouri.
- F. The Southwest Region shall be comprised of chapters from Utah, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.
- G. The Northwest Region shall be comprised of chapters from Washington, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Alaska, and Wyoming.
- H. The West Region shall be comprised of chapters from Hawaii, California, and Nevada

Article VIII

NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Section 1. The officers of the National Board of Directors shall be the National Advisor; the Director of Operation; the Director of Communication; the Director of New Chapter Recruitment and Services; the Director of Philanthropy, Service, and Recognition; the Director of Member and Alumni Relations; and the Director of Educational Programs.
- Section 2. The National Advisor is responsible for oversight of organizational business, coordinates semiannual Directors' meetings, coordinates the appointment of new directors, liaisons with the National President and National President Elect, and is responsible for oversight of semiannual National Chairs meetings.
- Section 3. The Director of Operations is responsible for oversight of the Order's budget, oversees the creation of quarterly budget reports, oversees the

formation of budget recommendations, oversees the creation of organizational financial reports and status, assists in the development of the Order's rating structure, works in concert with Director of Philanthropy, Service, and Recognition to develop the National Scholarship program, works in concert with the Director of Member and Alumni Relations to develop endowment options, and is the liaison with National Operations Chair.

Section 4. The Director of Communication is responsible for oversight of the Order's communication, is responsible for oversight of the Order's website content and development, is responsible for oversight of printed and electronic marketing material, ensures Order insignia are appropriately used, oversees the development of professional correspondence, and is the liaison with National Communication Chair.

Section 5. The Director of New Chapter Recruitment and Services is responsible for oversight of Order's expansion, works in concert with the Director of Communication to implement the Order's marketing plan, and coordinates the Order's presence at national conferences (such as ACUHO-I, and regional housing conferences).

Section 6. The Director of Philanthropy, Service, and Recognition is responsible for oversight of the development of and recognition of philanthropy and service, oversight of the creation of new opportunities for chapters to participate in service and philanthropy, oversight of the development of methods to recognize outstanding efforts of members and chapters, oversight of the coordination of the Points of Distinction effort for the Order, and is the liaison with the National Philanthropy, Service, and Recognition Chair.

Section 7. The Director of Member and Alumni Relations is responsible for member outreach; in concert with the Director of communication develops and implements communication plan with members of the organization; coordinates the Order's membership database; coordinates the Order's alumni database; in concert with Director of Operations, coordinates the development of endowment options, and develops services designed to serve the needs of members and alumni of the organization.

Section 8. The Director of Educational Programs is responsible for the oversight of the development of educational programs and offerings to include webinars and other professional development offerings of the organization, and is the liaison to the National Educational Programs Chair.

Article IX

ELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF NATIONAL OFFICERS

Section 1. The National Chairs shall be elected on a yearly basis by majority vote of a quorum of all chapters of Rho Alpha Sigma with exception of the National President. The National Vice President/President Elect will become the National President following one year of service as the National Vice President/President Elect or in succession of the National President should the National President resign prior to completion of a full term of office.

Section 2. Special elections shall be held to establish the inaugural National Chair positions and in the event that any National Chair resigns prior to completion of a full term of office except in the case of a National President resignation at which time the National Vice President/President Elect shall assume the office of the National President.

- A. Individuals wishing to run for a National Chair positions shall complete a National Chair Application of Interest and Commitment that will be forwarded to member institutions for consideration.
- B. National Chair Applications of Interest and Commitment will be due on August 31st each year.
- C. Election of National Chairs will be held on September 30th of each year and will be open until October 10th of each year.
- D. A simple majority of a quorum vote of the member chapters shall determine the winner of National Chair elections.
- E. Elected National Chairs will assume office on October 15th of each year.
- F. The term of office for all chairs shall be one year.

Section 3. Vacancies for the National Advisor position shall be filled by election by simple majority of a quorum vote of member chapters.

- A. The term of office for the National Advisor is two years.
- B. Individuals wishing to run for the vacant National Advisor position shall complete a National Advisor Application of Interest and Commitment that will be forwarded to member institutions for consideration.
- C. National Advisor Applications of Interest and Commitment will be due on August 31st each year that an election will be held.
- D. In years when there will be an election of National Advisors, the election will be held on September 30th of that year and will be open until October 10th of that year.
- E. A simple majority of a quorum vote of the member chapters shall determine the winner of National Advisor elections.
- F. Elected National Advisors will assume office on October 15th on the year of election.

Section 4. At the end of the term of office for the National Advisor, the National Advisor may either 1) request an additional term of office or 2) indicate the intent to vacate the position. Should the National Advisor request an additional term in office, the Advisor will complete a National Advisor Application of Interest and Commitment to be submitted to the National Chairs. The National Chairs may either 1) appoint the National Advisor to another two year term or 2) open the National Advisor position for election. Should the National Chairs open the National Advisor position for election, the current National Advisor may run for the position.

Section 5. After the National Advisor assumes the new term of office, the National Advisor will nominate individuals to assume National Board of Director positions. The National Chairs shall appoint the nominated National Board of Director candidates by a simple majority vote. Should a nominee fail to be appointed, the National Advisor shall nominate another individual and will continue doing so until the position is filled.

Article X **AMENDMENTS**

Section 1. Bylaws may be amended by a simple majority of voting delegates.

Section 2. Amendments to the bylaws may be proposed by any member of Rho Alpha Sigma. Such proposals must be submitted in writing to the national

office and shall be presented to voting delegates in the form of ballot measure following one month of the receipt of the measure.