

Proposed Bylaw Changes for the 2023 Convention

All recommendations below are based on governance committee meetings and suggestions from the officers, groups, assemblies, wreaths, and general membership.

Color Coding Key
RED - wording changes or simple updates.
BLUE - major changes
BLACK - completely remove
ORANGE - other

Bylaw No.	Original Bylaw	Proposed Change	Rationale
Title of document	BYLAWS of the SUPREME ASSEMBLY	The term Supreme changed to Executive throughout all of the bylaws.	Supreme is an antiquated term. The change should occur to keep up with modern terms.
1.0 (b)	(b) The Home Office of this organization shall be located at 205-207 Madison Street, P.O. Box 899, Passaic, New Jersey 07055, United States of America.	Change to The Home Office of the SCS will be domiciled in New Jersey.	The sale of the home office is a possibility in the future, so this wording allows for such a change.
1.1	the Assemblies to aid the sick and disabled among their members, and to ease the burdens of widows and orphans of deceased members.	Change to to encourage the assemblies to ease the burden of the families of deceased members.	It is a more inclusive statement
1.2 (d)	(d) To have a charter, own, purchase, sell, exchange and mortgage real estate and personality and have such other powers as are expressly delegated by the laws of the respective States of the United States or Canada.	Change to: To have a corporate charter which details the governance, structure, functions, operations, and such other powers as expressly delegated by the laws of the respective states of the United States and Canada.	Wording change for legal purposes (as per General Counsel)
1.3 (d)	(d) The Supreme Physical Fitness Board	Possibly remove	May need to be removed if the structure of the BOD changes
2.0(c)	(c) The Convention shall be held once every four (4) years at a site designated by the Board of	Remove If feasible, immediately preceded by a Slet	This has not been done for several years and this part is

	Directors at least two (2) years prior to the opening date of the Convention; if feasible, immediately preceded by a Slet. The site of consecutive Convention locations should not take place in the same city.		unnecessary
2.0(d)	(d) When serious reasons shall require it, and two-thirds (2/3) of the Assemblies shall approve or demand it, the Supreme President must call a special convention, to be held at a city designated by the Board of Directors.	Change to When a serious event requiring a bylaw amendment occurs, the president will call upon the delegates of the previous convention to vote upon the proposed amendment via an online forum. A 2/3 majority of the respondents will constitute a <i>quorum</i> .	This can be done via an online forum.
2.0 (f)	Every Assembly in good standing shall have the right to be represented at the Convention by one (1) delegate for all members up to one hundred (100) members. An Assembly having more than one hundred (100) members, as recorded on the books of the Supreme Secretary at the end of the year prior to the Convention, shall be entitled to one (1) additional delegate per hundred, or part thereof, as follows: 25 to 100 . . . 1 delegate 101 to 200 . . . 2 delegates 201 to 300 . . . 3 delegates 301 to 400 . . . 4 delegates 401 to 500 . . . 5 delegates.....and so on.	This needs to be updated based on the decreasing numbers in all areas	This needs to be updated based on the decreasing numbers in all areas
2.1 (c)	(c) He/she must have attended his/her Assembly meetings regularly for a period of at least one (1) year prior to the date of the Convention and shall have been personally present at the meeting at which he/she was elected. However, if a member declares his/her intention to be a delegate and has a valid reason for not being present at the meeting, the members present may decide his/her eligibility and elect him/her as a delegate.	Change to He/she must be an active member within the assembly for a period of at least one year. He/she must be present at the meeting at which he/she was elected whether in person or virtually. However, if a member declares his/her intention to be a delegate and has a valid reason for not being present at the meeting, the members present may decide his/her eligibility and elect him/her as a delegate.	This needs to be updated based on virtual meetings and the fact that not all members can attend meetings based on work commitments, etc.
2.0 (d)	At the same time, all delegates seeking Supreme Office must present their notice of candidacy for office, as described in SECTION 3.0. (c). (e) The Assembly shall consider as delegates only those members who have distinguished themselves as	Remove	Eligibility is determined by the president and secretary

	<p>active Sokols, or who have worked on behalf of the Assembly.</p>		
<p>2.2</p>	<p>(a) The Verification and Eligibility Committee shall consist of the Supreme President and the Supreme Secretary. This committee shall verify the credentials of proposed delegates and the eligibility for office of proposed nominees.</p> <p>(b) To facilitate the proceedings of the Convention, the Supreme President shall, at least ten weeks prior to the Convention, appoint the following necessary committees from among the delegates who shall meet not less than eight weeks prior to the convention, with an announcement and deadline for recommendations to said Committees to be published in the official publication. The Home Office should forward recommendations to the committee members prior to the meeting:</p> <p>(1) New Motions Committee, consisting of a Chairperson, two (2) male and two (2) female delegates.</p> <p>(2) Bylaws Committee, consisting of a Chairperson, two (2) male and two (2) female delegates.</p> <p>(c) The Petitions and Donations Committee shall consist of the Supreme Chaplain, Supreme President, and Supreme Secretary.</p> <p>(1) Donations shall be limited to a maximum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to any one church, religious organization, social, or cultural association, with a total donation limit of Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000.00).</p> <p>(2) Petitions and requests for donations must be submitted in writing and mailed to the Home Office no later than one (1) month prior to the Convention.</p> <p>(3) No petition or donation request will be accepted from the Convention floor.</p> <p>(4) The Committee shall submit a written report to the Convention.</p>	<p>Remove all pre-convention committees.</p>	<p>These committees do not need to meet prior to the convention.</p>

2.3	OTHER CONVENTION COMMITTEES	Remove other as we are eliminating pre-convention committees Add: Governance Committee a 5-member governance committee will be chosen from the applications received from the membership who wish to serve on that committee. This will be a standing committee. A member may not chair the committee 2 consecutive times, but may serve as a member of the committee.	
2.3	The Supreme President, who shall serve as the Convention Chairperson, shall appoint the Assistant Convention Secretaries and the following Convention Committees from those delegates who have indicated on their delegate form that they wish to serve as Assistant Secretaries or on a specific Committee.	Remove assistant secretaries and change to recording secretaries	There are no assistant secretaries, only recording secretaries
2.3	and, where necessary, certain Committees will be asked to meet prior to the Convention, at the direction of the Supreme President.	Remove	Not necessary
2.3	(b) Resolutions Committee (c) Public Relations Committee (f) Convention Reception Committee	Remove all three committees	Not necessary
2.4(g)	(g) Reports of Supreme Officers, as follows: (1) Supreme Chaplain (2) Supreme President (3) Supreme Vice-President (4) Supreme Secretary (5) Supreme Treasurer (6) Chairperson of Supreme Auditors (7) General Counsel (8) Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics (9) Supreme Assistant Director of Sports and Athletics (10) Supreme Physical Director (11) Supreme Assistant Physical Director (12) Supreme Physical Directress	Remove all	Reports are done yearly (no need to report at convention)

	(13) Supreme Assistant Physical Directress (14) Supreme Physical Fitness Board Members		
2.4 (h)	(h) Presentation and Reading of Actuaries, C.P.A., Bankers, Director of Sales & Marketing, or State Examiner's Reports (i) Reports of Appointed Convention Committees: (1) New Motions Committee (2) Bylaws Committee (3) Petitions and Donations Committee (7) Resolutions Committee (9) Public Relations Committee	Change to: Presentation of Professional Reports	We no longer have a Director of Sales and Marketing and some of the committees will no longer exist.
2.4 (l)	(l) Recommendations of the sites of the next Convention and Slet.	Remove	Not necessary
3.0 (a)	(a) Members of the Supreme Assembly, elected from the delegates at the Convention, shall consist of the following officers: Supreme Chaplain, Supreme President, Supreme Vice-President, Supreme Secretary, Supreme Treasurer, General Counsel, Chairperson of Supreme Auditors, two Auditors, Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, Supreme Assistant Director of Sports and Athletics, Supreme Physical Director, Supreme Assistant Physical Director, Supreme Physical Directress, Supreme Assistant Physical Directress, two (2) male and two (2) female members of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board.	Change structure to: President CEO General Counsel Chaplain 6 Executive Directors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each position above will have specific requirements to be eligible to run for office and each BOD member will be required to meet specific goals each year. <i>A Director of Fraternal Activities will be hired following the convention. This position will have a specific job description with goals that must be met. (this will not be a board position)</i>	To streamline our governance and combine some responsibilities Ex: all vice president, treasurer, and auditor responsibilities can be assigned to the executive directors. Fraternal Director will take on the Sports Director, Directress and Director responsibilities and executive directors can be called upon to assist with activity duties
3.0 (c)	(c) All candidates for Supreme Office must submit their petition and resume of their qualifications to	Change to All candidates for office must submit a resume at	Nominations from the floor do not allow for adequate time to

	<p>the Verification and Eligibility Committee.</p>	<p>least one month prior to the start of the convention. Specific office does not have to be submitted. There will be no nominations from the floor.</p> <p>Also, change verification and eligibility committee to president and CEO</p>	<p>determine proper eligibility or for the delegates to properly evaluate each candidate.</p> <p>Removal of committee</p>
<p>3.0 (g)</p>	<p>(g) Every Supreme Officer must conscientiously fulfill his/her official duties as prescribed by the Bylaws. Should an officer neglect to perform his/her duties, or violate his/her oath of office, he/she shall be admonished by the Supreme President. If he/she shall not heed his/her directive within a period of thirty (30) days, the Supreme President shall, with the approval of the Board of Directors, suspend him/her from office. (h) No Supreme Officer shall be permitted to manipulate the funds of the organization for personal gain.</p>	<p>(g) change to: Every Executive Officer must fulfill his/her duties as outlined in the bylaws. An executive will be removed from office "for cause" by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the elected executives, excluding the executive who is at issue, at a meeting called for that purpose. A determination of cause shall be made in the reasonable discretion of the Board of Directors. The Executive whose status is at issue will not be entitled to vote in the manner. "For cause," for purposes of this section, will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Inability or failure to perform the duties and responsibilities outlined of an executive ● Engaging in conduct unbecoming an executive ● Absence from two meetings of the Board of Directors during the course of a calendar year, without just cause. ● Breaching a fiduciary duty owed to the society, its members, or beneficiaries ● Materially violating these Bylaws, the Articles of Incorporation, any code of ethics, conflict of interest policy or other policy adopted by the society ● Delinquency in payment of premium or ceasing to be a member of the society ● Being convicted of a crime which, under the law of the state of his/her conviction is a felony of any degree ● approving or propagating Anti-Catholic, anti- 	<p>This wording eliminates ambiguity</p>

		Slovak or anti-American news, papers, books, electronic or other media	
3.0(g)	Being convicted of a crime which, under the law of the state of his/her conviction is a felony of any degree	Change to : "Being convicted of a crime of moral turpitude."	Change to coincide with legal terms and lessen ambiguity
3.2 (f)	All Supreme Officers and Committees shall submit a written annual report at the first quarterly meeting. The minutes from each quarterly meeting, along with all reports presented, shall be published in the official publication within one month after the meeting.	Change to electronically submit an annual report prior to the first quarterly meeting. All reports will be added to the SCS website.	No need to send a written report
4.1 (h)	Should a vacancy occur for any reason in any Supreme Office, except the office of Supreme President, Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, Supreme Physical Director, or Supreme Physical Directress, the Board of Directors shall have the right to fill such vacancy for the remaining term with a new Officer who shall be a qualified member of the organization.	Add CEO and change wording of a change in structure is made	
4.1 (n)	(n) The Supreme President shall interpret the Bylaws with the aid of the General Counsel.	change <i>shall interpret</i> to <i>will enforce</i> the Bylaws after consultation with the General Counsel.	The current wording is too ambiguous
4.3		Add (q) should a vacancy occur for any reason, the Supreme President will convene an advisory committee to initiate a search for a qualified replacement to include both internal and external candidates.	
5.0	5.0 (e) Each active Group of the S.C.S. shall be entitled to fifteen (15) cents per member from this fund on a monthly basis, paid quarterly	Each active Group of the S.C.S. shall be entitled to fifteen (15) cents per member from this fund on a monthly basis, paid quarterly. A Group with over \$10,000 in their Group account will not be issued a Group assessment.	We have been told by our Professionals and State Regulators that we need to find areas to decrease our expenses. It is outlined in Section 5.0 of the Bylaws of what the Group funds are to be

			<p>spent on. Many of the items mentioned in 5.0 are not happening or are not happening to the level they once were. This particular change has been implemented by many, if not all, the other fraternal. Given the current environment, there really is not a need for a Group to have the need for more than the stated cap in their Group Funds.</p>
5.6	<p>(b) All Bylaw changes approved and adopted at any current convention shall become effective January 1 of the following year. (c) All other approved and adopted Bylaw changes requiring immediate action of any current Convention shall be effective immediately.</p>	<p>remove c. ADD Bylaw changes approved and adopted at any current convention will become effective January 1 of the following year with the exception of significant changes to the structure or function of the organization requiring them to be immediately implemented.</p>	
6.0 (f)	<p>(f) Each Group must publish a notice of all their meetings, and the minutes of such meetings, within ninety (90) days of the meeting, in the official publication of the organization. Non-compliance will result in forfeiture of quarterly assessments.</p>	<p>Change to 30 days and add posted on Facebook or social media</p>	
7.3	<p>ADDITIONAL DUTIES AND EXPULSION OF MEMBERS</p>	<p>Remove additional</p>	
7.3	<p>Upon violation of any of the following provisions a member will be expelled from the Assembly and the organization and all his/her rights and privileges as a member will cease and terminate, subject, however, to the Non-Forfeiture provisions: (a) A member must pay the monthly or other dues,</p>	<p>Upon any violation listed in 3.0(g), a member of the Board of Directors, a Group Officer, or an Assembly or Wreath Officer will be removed from his/her office and all his/her rights and privileges as an officer will cease.</p>	

	<p>finances, or assessments levied against him/her, on or before the due date, but a grace period of three (3) months will be allowed for any payment (after the first) during which time the Certificate will remain in full force and effect.</p> <p>(b) A member convicted of a crime which, under the law of the State of his/her conviction is a felony, shall be expelled by the Supreme President.</p> <p>(c) A member who approves or propagates Anti-Catholic, anti-Slovak or anti-American newspapers, books, electronic or other media shall be expelled by the Supreme President.</p> <p>(d) A member aggrieved by the action of the Supreme President or the Supreme Secretary, or both, in expelling such member, or dissatisfied with the decision of the Assembly wherein his/her rights as a member may be affected, or if he/she be aggrieved or dissatisfied for any other reason whatsoever, before proceeding in a Civil Court against the organization, any Assembly or Group</p>		
8.5 (a)	(a) Assembly meetings shall be held at least once each and every month, at such time and place as shall be designated by the Assembly itself, the meetings shall be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Orders.	Change to at least once a month to quarterly and add that it can be an online meeting.	
8.5 (b)	(b) Annual Meetings of the Assembly will be held at which time the election of officers shall be held, annual reports of officers made and filed, and the financial condition of the Assembly reported upon to the members. Notice of annual meetings shall be published in the official publication of the organization in ample time prior to the meeting.	ADD meetings should be posted on the social media platform.	
9.0 (c)	(c) Candidates who have been members of an Assembly at least one (1) year, and attended meetings regularly, may be elected to office.	change attend regular meeting to are active members	Sometimes a member cannot attend meetings due to work or other obligations. Active members should be eligible.

9.2		Add specific duties to group president responsibilities (submit a yearly article, organize at least one outreach activity per year, turn in a yearly activity report, submit one name for FOTY)	These were duties agreed upon by the group presidents at the group president's meeting

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2023 Qualifications to Run for Office

President

- Board of Director experience with the SCS
- Bachelor's Degree preferred
- 8 years applicable work experience
(example: board governance; human resource management; leadership; finance/business)
- Good verbal and communication skills
- Familiarity with information technology and social media platforms

CEO

- Leadership experience within the fraternal benefit sector
- Bachelor's Degree preferred
- 8 years applicable work experience
(example: board governance; human resource management; leadership; finance/business)
- Licensing requirements met within the first 6 months of employment based on the domiciled state.
- Good verbal and communication skills
- Familiarity with information technology and social media platforms

Executive Directors (6)

- Active Participation at the local/ group/ national level in a leadership role
- Bachelor's Degree preferred

- 4 years applicable work experience
(example: board governance; human resource management; leadership; finance/business)
- Good verbal and communication skills
- Familiarity with information technology and social media platforms

Chaplain

- An ordained Catholic priest

Legal Counsel

- Graduate of an accredited law school
- Licensed member of the state bar
- Licensed to practice law in the state where the Home Office is domiciled

HIRED POSITION

Director of Fraternal Activities

- Active participation in the local/group/national level
- Leadership experience
- Familiarity with planning and overseeing group events
- Experience with contract negotiation and financial management
- Good verbal and communication skills
- Familiarity with information technology and social media platforms