



# **The Rho Chi Society**

## **National Bylaws – 2018 Revision**

### **Supplemental Guide - Annotated**

**(Annotations are highlighted, in italics and referenced with guide number.)**

## **A Brief History of The Rho Chi Society**

The Rho Chi Society has its origin in the merger of two movements, both commencing in 1917, to create a national honor society for pharmacy. One had started on the campus of the University of Michigan where there had been a local honor society (known as the "Aristolochite Society") in existence at the Pharmaceutical Department since 1908. This group began to plan for national expansion in 1917, and finally established a second chapter at the School of Pharmacy of the (then) Oregon Agricultural College in 1919 and a third at the University of Oklahoma in 1922.

The other movement, originally independent of the Michigan movement, was initiated even earlier in 1917 by Rufus A. Lyman in his presidential address to the American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties. Under the stimulus of his suggestion, and the conscientious efforts of Professor Zada M. Cooper, it was decided to take advantage of the activity in progress at Michigan. The "Aristolochite Society" had in the meantime become the "Rho Chi Society," and had been granted a charter by the State of Michigan on May 19, 1922. The Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties, finding that the group met the standards which the Conference had determined upon, extended its recognition to Rho Chi, as "the Honor Society of Pharmacy." Rho Chi, in turn, provided that chapters could be established only at colleges that were members of the Conference (now the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy.)

A policy of conservative expansion followed. After five years of existence, Rho Chi could count eight chapters; and after ten years, eighteen, but thereafter, growth continued more rapidly. In 2018, there were 128 active chapters and additional chapters are anticipated at new schools of pharmacy.

The high standards maintained for membership in Rho Chi have resulted in the general recognition of the Society not only by Pharmacy, but also by academic circles generally. Since 1947, the Society has been a member of the Association of College Honor Societies.

## **The Mission of The Rho Chi Society**

In July 1998, the Executive Council of the Society revised the vision and mission statements for the Society that have guided the Society into the 21st century. Those statements are:

*The Rho Chi Society will achieve universal recognition of its members as lifelong intellectual leaders in pharmacy. As a community of scholars, the Society will instill the desire to pursue intellectual excellence and critical inquiry to advance the profession.*

*The Rho Chi Society, Pharmacy's academic honor society, encourages and recognizes excellence in intellectual achievement and fosters fellowship among its members. Further, the Society encourages high standards of conduct and character, and advocates critical inquiry in all aspects of pharmacy.*

## Objectives of The Rho Chi Society

The fundamental objective of Rho Chi has always been to promote the advancement of the pharmaceutical sciences through the encouragement and recognition of sound scholarship. High standards of intellectual and scholarly attainment have been demanded for election to membership; and such election, symbolized by the award of the Rho Chi Key, supplies a unique scholarship incentive.

Rho Chi seeks to promote scholarly fellowship in pharmacy by bringing professional students, graduate students, and faculty members together in fraternal and helpful association. Regular chapter meetings, and other activities, emphasize the professional aspects of pharmacy and point the way to instructive study and research. By such means, Rho Chi, like its sister honor societies, seeks to increase the awareness of the ethical and social responsibilities of the profession, and thereby, to enhance the prestige of the profession.

The Society has also sought to encourage research in pharmacy and in 1972 established a first-year graduate scholarship. In 1992, the first-year graduate scholarship was awarded in conjunction with the American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education (AFPE) Board of Grants. This scholarship is awarded, on a competitive basis, to a student in the final year of professional studies or to a member who has completed professional studies. It is limited to members of the Rho Chi Society who enter graduate programs in accredited schools/colleges of pharmacy leading to the Ph.D. degree. A similar post-doctoral clinical research scholarship was established in 2003 and is administered by the Rho Chi Scholarship Committee. The Scholarship is awarded to a Rho Chi member entering the second year of fellowship training. In addition, small cash awards are presented to chapters who are selected in the Chapter Awards Program and are based upon competitive theme entries suggested each year by the Society's Executive Council and/or sustained activities of the chapter.

### The Society's Insignia

The Greek letters, "Rho" and "Chi," were the relative position in which they are found the prescription sign. The colors attached to indicate the royalty of purple and the loyalty



originally selected because, when placed in on the Rho Chi Key, they are emblematic of the seal of membership were chosen to of white. The eight sides of the Key,

although they have had different meanings in the past, now represent chemistry, biology, physiology, pharmaceuticals, pharmacology, and the biomedical, social/administrative, and clinical sciences.

## Society Publications

Beginning in 1933 and for the next 60 years, the Society published its annual report, *The Report of Rho Chi*, containing complete accounts of the activities of the Executive Council, the National Office, and local chapters, and distributed the *Report* in print version among collegiate and honorary members at their initiation. Although the *Report of Rho Chi* is no longer printed, the content is nonetheless published through the Society's Website, [www.rhochi.org](http://www.rhochi.org).

A historical study, called *The Rho Chi Society* by Roy A. Bowers and David L. Cowen, was issued by the Society in 1955 in cooperation with the American Institute of the History of Pharmacy. This work was first published in the *American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education* (1955;19:244-284). The fifth revision, edited by Robert A. Buerki, published in 1992 is the current edition. In the future, *The Rho Chi Society* will be published through the Society's Website.

Current information about the Society, useful both for members and non-members, can be found at the Society's Internet site, [www.rhochi.org](http://www.rhochi.org). Members and guests are welcome to visit the site or to contact the National Office through email at [RhoChi@usc.edu](mailto:RhoChi@usc.edu) for further information.

## Rho Chi Society Chapters

Chartered	Chapter	University	City	State
1922	Alpha	University of Michigan	Ann Arbor	MI
1922	Beta	Oregon State University	Corvallis	OR
1922	Gamma	University of Oklahoma	Oklahoma City	OK
1923	Delta	University of Iowa	Iowa City	IA
1925	Epsilon	Washington State University	Pullman	WA
1925	Zeta	Auburn University	Auburn	AL
1925	Eta	University of Wisconsin	Madison	WI
1925	Theta	University of Southern California	Los Angeles	CA
1928	Iota	University of Florida	Gainesville	FL
1928	Kappa	North Dakota State University	Fargo	ND
1929	Lambda	Virginia Commonwealth University	Richmond	VA
1930	Mu	University of Minnesota	Minneapolis	MN
1930	Nu	University of Texas at Austin	Austin	TX
1929	Xi	University of North Carolina	Chapel Hill	NC
1930	Omicron	University of Maryland	Baltimore	MD
1931	Pi *	North Pacific College of Oregon	Portland	OR
1931	Rho	University of Washington	Seattle	WA
1931	Sigma *	Western Reserve University	Cleveland	OH
1931	Tau	South Dakota State University	Brookings	SD
1934	Upsilon	Ohio State University	Columbus	OH
1934	Phi	University of Illinois at Chicago	Chicago	IL
1937	Chi	University of Mississippi	University	MS
1939	Psi	Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences	Boston	MA
1940	Omega	State University of New York at Buffalo	Buffalo	NY
1941	Alpha Alpha	Creighton University	Omaha	NE
1941	Alpha Beta	Duquesne University	Pittsburgh	PA
1942	Alpha Gamma	University of Connecticut	Storrs	CT
1942	Alpha Delta *	Loyola University of the South	New Orleans	LA
1943	Alpha Epsilon	University of Nebraska	Omaha	NE
1945	Alpha Zeta	Purdue University	West Lafayette	IN
1947	Alpha Eta	Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey	Piscataway	NJ
1948	Alpha Theta	University of Colorado	Denver	CO

## Rho Chi Society Chapters

Chartered	Chapter	University	City	State
1948	Alpha Iota	Medical <b>University of South Carolina</b> (Originally chartered as Medical College of South Carolina)	Charleston	SC
1949	Alpha Kappa	University of Georgia	Athens	GA
1949	Alpha Lambda	University of California	San Francisco	CA
1949	Alpha Mu	West Virginia University	Morgantown	WV
1948	Alpha Nu	University of Tennessee	Memphis	TN
1949	Alpha Xi	University of Kentucky	Lexington	KY
1950	Alpha Omicron	University of Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	PA
1951	Alpha Pi *	University of Arizona	Tucson	AZ
1951	Alpha Rho	University of Kansas	Lawrence	KS
1951	Alpha Sigma	Drake University	Des Moines	IA
1951	Alpha Tau	University of the Sciences in Philadelphia	Philadelphia	PA
1951	Alpha Upsilon	Idaho State University	Pocatello	ID
1953	Alpha Phi	Butler University	Indianapolis	IN
1953	Alpha Chi	Wayne State University	Detroit	MI
1954	Alpha Psi	University of Arizona	Tucson	AZ
1954	Alpha Omega	University of Missouri at Kansas City	Kansas City	MO
1954	Beta Alpha	University of South Carolina	Columbia	SC
1954	Beta Beta	Samford University	Birmingham	AL
1954	Beta Gamma *	Columbia University	New York	NY
1954	Beta Delta	St. John's University	Jamaica	NY
1955	Beta Epsilon	University of Utah	Salt Lake City	UT
1955	Beta Zeta *	George Washington University	Washington	D.C.
1955	Beta Eta	University of Toledo	Toledo	OH
1955	Beta Theta	Long Island University	Brooklyn	NY
1955	Beta Iota	University of Arkansas	Little Rock	AR
1955	Beta Kappa	St. Louis College of Pharmacy	St. Louis	MO
1955	Beta Lambda	Temple University	Philadelphia	PA
1955	Beta Mu	Ferris State College	Big Rapids	MI
1956	Beta Nu	University of Cincinnati	Cincinnati	OH
1956	Beta Xi *	Fordham University	New York	NY
1958	Beta Omicron	University of Houston	Houston	TX
1959	Beta Pi	University of Rhode Island	Kingston	RI
1960	Beta Rho	University of Montana	Missoula	MT
1960	Beta Sigma	Howard University	Washington	D.C.

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Chartered	Chapter	University	City	State
1961	Beta Tau	Northeastern University	Boston	MA
1961	Beta Upsilon	Southwestern Oklahoma State University	Weatherford	OK
1961	Beta Phi	University of Wyoming	Laramie	WY
1961	Beta Chi	University of Louisiana at Monroe	Monroe	LA
1962	Beta Psi	Ohio Northern University	Ada	OH
1964	Beta Omega	University of the Pacific	Stockton	CA
1967	Gamma Alpha	Mercer University	Atlanta	GA
1968	Gamma Beta	University of New Mexico	Albuquerque	NM
1976	Gamma Gamma	Union University	Albany	NY
1977	Gamma Delta	Texas Southern University	Houston	TX
1977	Gamma Epsilon	Xavier University of Louisiana	New Orleans	LA
1980	Gamma Zeta	Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University	Tallahassee	FL
1986	Gamma Eta	University of Puerto Rico	San Juan	PR
1991	Gamma Theta	Nova Southeastern University	Ft. Lauderdale	FL
1994	Gamma Iota	Campbell University	Buies Creek	NC
1995	Gamma Kappa	Midwestern University	Downers Grove	IL
2000	Gamma Lambda	Wilkes University	Wilkes Barre	PA
2000	Gamma Mu	Texas Tech University	Amarillo	TX
2001	Gamma Nu	Midwestern University - Glendale	Glendale	AZ
2002	Gamma Xi	Hampton University	Hampton	VA
2003	Gamma Omicron	Shenandoah University	Winchester	VA
2003	Gamma Pi	Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Science - School of Pharmacy - Worcester	Worcester	MA
2004	Gamma Rho	Loma Linda University	Loma Linda	CA
2005	Gamma Sigma	Western University of Health Sciences	Pomona	CA
2005	Gamma Tau	Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM) University	Erie	PA
2005	Gamma Upsilon	South University	Savannah	GA
2005	Gamma Phi	Wingate University	Wingate	NC
2006	Gamma Chi	Palm Beach Atlantic University	West Palm Beach	FL
2008	Gamma Psi*	South Carolina College of Pharmacy	Columbia/ Charleston	SC
2008	Gamma Omega	Texas A & M Health Science Center	Kingsville	TX
2008	Delta Alpha	University of Appalachia	Oakwood	VA

## Rho Chi Society Chapters

Chartered	Chapter	University	City	State
2008	Delta Beta	Southern Illinois University Edwardsville	Edwardsville	IL
2010	Delta Gamma	University of British Columbia	Vancouver	BC
2011	Delta Delta	Touro University – California	Vallejo	CA
2011	Delta Epsilon	East Tennessee State University	Johnson City	TN
2011	Delta Zeta	St. John Fisher College	Rochester	NY
2011	Delta Eta	University of the Incarnate Word	San Antonio	TX
2012	Delta Theta	University of Findlay	Findlay	OH
2012	Delta Iota	University of Hawaii	Hilo	HI
2012	Delta Kappa	Sullivan University	Louisville	KY
2012	Delta Lambda	University of Charleston	Charleston	WV
2013	Delta Mu	Belmont University	Nashville	TN
2013	Delta Nu	Touro College of Pharmacy	New York	NY
2013	Delta Xi	Chicago State University	Chicago	IL
2013	Delta Omicron	Harding University	Searcy	AR
2013	Delta Pi	Lipscomb University	Nashville	TN
2013	Delta Rho	Union University	Jackson	TN
2014	Delta Sigma	University of Maryland Eastern Shore	Princess Anne	MD
2014	Delta Tau	Notre Dame of Maryland	Baltimore	MD
2014	Delta Upsilon	California Northstate University	Rancho Cordova	CA
2014	Delta Phi	Northeast Ohio Medical University	Rootstown	OH
2014	Delta Chi	University of New England	Portland	ME
2014	Delta Psi	Regis University	Denver	Co
2015	Delta Omega	Presbyterian College	Clinton	SC
2015	Epsilon Alpha	University of Saint Joseph	Hartford	CT
2015	Epsilon Beta	D'Youville College	Buffalo	NY
2015	Epsilon Gamma	Husson University	Bangor	ME
2015	Epsilon Delta	Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine – Georgia Campus	Suwanee	GA
2015	Epsilon Zeta	Concordia University – Wisconsin	Mequon	WI
2016	Epsilon Epsilon	Thomas Jefferson University	Philadelphia	PA
2016	Epsilon Eta	South College	Knoxville	TN
2016	Epsilon Theta	Roosevelt University	Schaumburg	IL
2016	Epsilon Iota	Western New England University	Springfield	MA
2016	Epsilon Kappa	University of South Florida	Tampa	FL



## Rho Chi Society Chapters

Chartered	Chapter	University	City	State
2016	Epsilon Lambda	Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science	North Chicago	IL
2017	Epsilon Mu	Cedarville University	Cedarville	OH
2017	Epsilon Nu	Manchester University	Fort Wayne	IN
2018	Epsilon Xi	Marshall University	Huntington	WV
2018	Epsilon Omicron	Fairleigh Dickinson University	Florham Park	NJ

\* Designates an Inactive Chapter

# THE NATIONAL BYLAWS of the The Rho Chi Society

## ARTICLE I: NAME

This organization shall be named The Rho Chi Society. Alternatively, The Rho Chi Pharmacy Honor Society may be used in reference to The Rho Chi Society. Member chapters of The Rho Chi Society shall be designated by a Greek letter or letters in the alphabetical order in which each chapter is chartered.

## ARTICLE II: VISION AND MISSION (*Guide 1*)

*Guide (1) Please refer to the Rho Chi Advisor Guidebook for additional guidance and examples to reinforce the true Mission and Vision of Rho Chi.*

**Section 1.** The Society's vision is to achieve universal recognition of its members as lifelong intellectual leaders in pharmacy. As a community of scholars, the Society will instill the desire to pursue intellectual excellence and critical inquiry to advance the profession.

**Section 2.** The mission of the Society is to encourage and recognize excellence in intellectual achievement and foster fellowship among its members. Further, the Society encourages high standards of conduct and character, and advocates critical inquiry in all aspects of pharmacy.

## ARTICLE III: MEMBERS

**Section 1. *Member Designations.*** The Society shall consist of collegiate (professional students, graduate students, and faculty), associate, alumni and honorary members who have been elected to membership in accord with provisions of these Bylaws. Individuals are elected to membership through member chapters of the Society, or, in the case of Honorary Members, through the Society's Executive Council. Individuals shall become members of the Society upon compliance with membership requirements, election to membership by the active members of local chapters, report and payment of member fees to the National Office, and after being duly initiated by the chapter membership.

**Section 2. *Member Qualifications. (Guide 2)*** The qualifications outlined below are considered to be minimum standards. Chapters may set higher membership standards provided that academic qualifications are the essential criteria. Discrimination in membership selection that is based on race, color, creed, religion, gender, national origin or ancestry, age, sexual orientation, or disability is prohibited.

An active application process may be used for candidates who meet all eligibility criteria. The application, if used, is an active part of the invitation process that educates candidates on the vision, mission, and objectives of the Society, while serving as a mechanism for collecting important membership data.

*Guide (2) Chapters may choose to identify more strict eligibility criteria, if clearly stated in the Chapter's bylaws registered with the National Office. Below are some examples to illustrate creative practices across chapters. They are not all inclusive and can be adjusted based on chapter preferences. The minimum eligibility criteria listed in the Bylaws must be maintained.*

*1. Replacing 3.0 Professional GPA with 3.5 Professional GPA*

2. *Attending an orientation/meeting prior to induction that describes the Rho Chi Mission and Vision and outlines membership expectations*
3. *Participating in a fundraiser event*

**Section 3. Collegiate Membership.** Eligible for election as full collegiate members are:

a) **Professional entry-level degree students** who:

1. *are full-time (Guide 3) students enrolled in a professional pharmacy program that is (fully) accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), or the Canadian Council for the Accreditation of Pharmacy Programs, and*

*Guide (3) Full-time designation is defined by the University and/or College.*

2. *have (Guide 4) completed no less than one-half of the required professional pre-Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (pre-APPE) course work as defined for their degree, and*

*Guide (4) Chapters may choose to identify and induct members no sooner than 50% completion of the required pre-APPE professional course work.*

3. *rank (Guide 5) in the highest 20 percent of their class as determined by the school or college in which they are enrolled and have attained a minimum professional grade point average (Guide 6) (GPA) of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, and*

*Guide (5) Identification methods to determine student eligibility are institutionally based. Confidentiality must be maintained throughout the process. Below are some ways to maintain and reinforce the importance of confidentiality*

1. *Request an alphabetical list of top 20% ranked students from Registrar or School Administration, if not serving in a position with access to student records*
2. *Present an alphabetical list to members for voting*
3. *Have students complete a FERPA release form*

*\* Please note that completion of FERPA release forms are based on individual institutional practices and not a requirement by Rho Chi.*

*Guide (6) Professional GPA is based on individual institutional policy to maintain consistency in calculation. Although it is not required, it is recommended to formalize this process with specific language in the chapter bylaws to reduce potential for interpretation and unintended changes over time.*

NOTE:

- a) Programs unable to calculate a professional GPA may utilize the cumulative GPA for purposes of determining membership eligibility. If necessary, professional grades may be converted to weighted scales (H=4.0, P=3.0, L=2.0, and F=0).
- b) The chapter shall base the determination of the highest 20 percent upon class size at the time those students become eligible for membership in the Rho Chi Society. If the 20 percent calculation results in a fraction, the number should be rounded up or down to the nearest whole number. Once (Guide 7) the class size is determined, the

number may not be increased or decreased due to addition, attrition, or early graduation. In exceptional circumstances, e.g., an arithmetic (Guide 8) tie that cannot otherwise be resolved, a chapter may petition the National Office for an exception providing clear explanation for consideration of the request. Such petition is to be signed by both the Chapter Advisor and the Dean, or designee, of the college or university.

*Guide (7) Class sizes for each year cannot exceed the initial number of eligible members. For example, if there are 100 students in the class at the 50% completion point of the pre-APPE professional coursework, there are 20 (20%) available membership positions for that class from that moment until graduation. The 20 students can be inducted into Rho Chi all at once or distributed across the remaining time in the program. If a portion, e.g. 10 students (top 10%), are inducted at that time, the remaining 10 membership positions may be deferred to a future induction time point when a re-ranking of students would occur. The remaining available memberships would remain at 10 regardless of the class size when the re-ranking occurs. Even if students drop out, reclassify, transfer into the class, etc. the remaining membership opportunities for that class are 10.*

*Guide (8) Cumulative GPA may not be used to distinguish membership eligibility between or among candidates during an arithmetic tie. A petition to the National Office for additional membership(s) would be required. Pre-pharmacy and pre-program enrollment grades are not included in GPA calculation.*

- c) In calculating grade point averages and class standing, chapters are to use the same criteria for transfer students, including those who may hold a prior degree as for students who have been enrolled in the parent institution for their entire academic career.
4. have been certified eligible for membership by the dean of the pharmacy school or the dean's designee. The dean or the dean's designee shall certify that candidates have no known disciplinary action for academic dishonesty, misconduct, or unprofessional behavior.
- b) **Post-Baccalaureate (Guide 9) Membership.** All Post-Baccalaureate Doctor of Pharmacy students who:
- Guide 9 ( Post-Baccalaureate refers to Post-Bachelor of Pharmacy degrees which may apply to some non-traditional Doctor of Pharmacy programs.*
1. have completed no less than one-half of the required professional pre-APPE course work as defined for their degree with the stipulation outlined in Section 3. a) 2. above, and
  2. have maintained a professional GPA of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale in post-baccalaureate course work, and
  3. are nominated for membership by a student member of Rho Chi or by a member of the faculty, and
  4. meet the requirements for membership set forth in Section 3. a) 4. above.
- c) **Graduate Membership.** All graduate students who:

1. are pursuing a Master of Science or a Doctor of Philosophy degree and are majoring in one or more areas of pharmaceutical study mentored or supervised by a member of the pharmacy faculty, and
2. have completed no less than one-half of the required course work as defined for their degree by the program, and
3. have maintained the equivalent of a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale in graduate course work. [For calculation purposes, graduate grades are converted to weighted scales (H = 4.0; P=3.0, L=2.0; F=0),] and
4. are nominated for membership by a member of the faculty or self and
5. meet the requirements for membership set forth in Section 3. a) 4. above.

d) **Faculty (Guide 10) Membership.** Faculty members who:

*Guide (10) is recommended to select specific faculty members based on the criteria listed in this section rather than offering membership to any faculty member interested in being a member of Rho Chi. Suggestions and areas to consider for assessing and/or identifying faculty for Rho Chi membership include*

1. *Scholarship*
2. *Service to the Society*
3. *Teacher of the Year*
4. *Annual limitation of 1 faculty member nomination /selection*

1. are appointed in a school or college of pharmacy, and
2. are eligible to vote on faculty matters of the school or college of pharmacy, and
3. have a principal duty to instruct or hold research or administrative appointments in the school or college of pharmacy, and
4. are nominated to membership by a full collegiate member of the Society or self, and
5. meet the requirements for membership set forth in Section 3. a) 4. above.

**Section 4. Associate Membership.** Eligible for election as associate members are graduates of an ACPE-accredited Baccalaureate or Doctor of Pharmacy degree program who:

1. achieved a professional and cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale at graduation, and
2. have, since graduation, exhibited evidence of intellectual excellence and critical inquiry, and
3. are nominated by a full collegiate member of the Society, and
4. are invited to apply for associate membership by an established collegiate chapter and
5. have their applications favorably reviewed by the sponsoring chapter, the school or college dean, and the appropriate Regional Councilor.

In regular meetings of the active chapters of the Society, associate members shall have all privileges of full collegiate members except the right to vote and to hold office.

**Section 5. *Honorary (Guide 11) Membership.*** Eligible for election as honorary members are persons who have given evidence of distinguished scholarship or rendered distinguished service to pharmacy and have been elected to such membership in accord with the provisions stated in these Bylaws. Honorary membership is among the highest distinctions afforded by the Society.

*Guide (11) It is important for chapters to recognize the distinction conferred by Honorary Membership in the Society. Honorary membership is designed to recognize individuals who have achieved national or international distinction; chapters should carefully consider this prior to submitting nominations to the National Office.*

Honorary members may be nominated by any chapter or by any member of the Executive Council. Nominations, including qualifications of the nominees, shall be submitted in writing to the National Office and thus to the Executive Council. To achieve the goal of induction into membership during the National Convention, nominations must be in the National Office three months before the Convention. Election to honorary membership requires the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the membership of the Executive Council. Induction of honorary members shall usually occur during the National Convention. An appropriate certificate and insignia shall be issued to each honorary member. Honorary members shall not have the right to vote or hold office.

**Section 6. *Charter Membership.*** The charter members of a chapter shall consist of professional and graduate students currently enrolled in the school of pharmacy or those who have graduated within one year of the time the charter is granted and of members of the institution's teaching staff who are eligible for induction as full collegiate members. No student, graduate or professional, or faculty member is eligible as a charter member if already elected to full collegiate membership in another chapter of the Society. The charter members shall meet the membership requirements as listed above. Alumni of the school or college beyond one year of their graduation are not eligible for charter membership, but may be elected as associate members.

**Section 7. *Chapter Affiliation.*** Any member of the Society who may change residence shall be entitled to affiliation with the local chapter upon presentation and acceptance of satisfactory credentials from the National Office. Such members shall have the same active, collegiate, associate, alumni or honorary status in the new chapter as was held in the chapter from which membership was transferred.

**Section 8. *Member (Guide 12) Election.*** Duly qualified candidates for collegiate or associate membership in the Society shall become members-elect upon receiving the affirmative vote of not less than a majority of the voting chapter members present providing that a quorum as defined in the chapter's bylaws is met.

*Guide (12) Confidentiality must be maintained throughout the member election process. Please refer to Article III Section 3a for more information.*

- (a) Chapters may elect members annually or semi-annually.
- (b) A quorum of voting members, as defined by the chapter bylaws, is required for the conduct of new member elections.
- (c) A majority vote of the chapter membership present is required for election of new members.
- (d) Notice of election to membership shall be made in writing.

- (e) Prior to their initiation, members-elect may participate in chapter projects and activities. However, members-elect are not eligible to vote on matters before the chapter or to hold office.

**Section 9. Member Fees.** The national member fee for new members will be set by the Executive Council. This fee, which includes the cost of a member certificate and insignia, shall be paid to the National Office for each member initiated.

- (a) The cost of a banquet or other special event associated with the initiation ceremony may be assessed in excess of the national member fee.
- (b) There shall be no initiation fee for honorary members.
- (c) Each chapter may assess reasonable annual dues for its members as it sees fit.

**Section 10. Initiation (Guide 13) of Members.** Collegiate and associate members shall be initiated according to the official ceremony.

- (a) Honorary members shall be inducted at the National Convention if possible.

*Guide (13) Please refer to the Rho Chi Advisor Guidebook for additional guidance and best practices regarding induction ceremony planning and implementation.*

- (b) A membership certificate shall be presented to each elected member at the time of initiation. The certificate will be signed by the National President and the Chapter President and shall bear the official seal of the Society. All certificates shall be obtained through the National Office and shall be the expense of the chapter ordering them.
- (c) A membership insignia shall be presented to each elected member at the time of initiation. All insignia shall be obtained through the National Office and shall be the expense of the chapter ordering them.

**Section 11. Insignia.** The insignia of the embodying the Greek letters rho and chi in a eight-sided base. The official seal shall be insignia. The colors of the Society shall be be purple and white with the official insignia of the Society in the center, the words "Rho Chi" appearing above the insignia and the words "Pharmacy Honor Society" appearing below the insignia. Where college or university policies permit, official honor cords or medallions, obtained through the National Office, may be worn by members of active chapters during commencement exercises conducted by their respective school or college of pharmacy. Honor cords and medallion ribbons shall be purple and/or white in color.



Society shall be in the form of a watch key, definite configuration raised upon an oblong the same general configuration as the purple and white. The official banner should be purple and white with the official insignia of the Society in the center, the words "Rho Chi" appearing above the insignia and the words "Pharmacy Honor Society" appearing below the insignia.

**Section 12. Disqualification (Guide 14) and Loss of Membership.** Eligibility and election to active membership in the Society is determined by member chapters of the Society in accord with guidelines established within these National Bylaws. In like fashion, disqualification and removal of an individual from membership will usually be initiated by the Dean, or designee, of the college or university on behalf of the local chapter and confirmed by The Rho Chi Society.

*Guide (14) Once inducted, members do not lose membership in Rho Chi simply for poor performance (e.g. GPA falling below 3.0 or ranking outside of the Top 20%).*

Collegiate members (professional students, graduate students, and members of the faculty) may be disqualified and removed from membership following disciplinary action taken against the member for reasons of academic dishonesty, misconduct, or unprofessional behavior in accord with college or university policies. Alumni and associate members may be disqualified and removed from membership for violation of a code of professional conduct or conviction for felonious acts.

Disqualification of collegiate, alumni, or associate members shall be reported in writing to the National Office and shall be signed by the Dean, or designee, of the college or university. At the same time, the member in question shall be notified in writing of the chapter's intended action and of the member's right to appeal within two weeks of the date of that notification. In instances in which the member wishes to appeal the dismissal, the following procedure shall be implemented:

- a. The member in question shall contact the National Office in writing within two weeks of the date of the official notification of disqualification stating any reason or reasons that the local action should not be implemented by The Rho Chi Society.
- b. The member in question shall release the Rho Chi Society in writing allowing the Society to discuss the circumstance(s), in confidence, among members of its Executive Council.
- c. The Executive Vice President shall review the decision of the chapter and any appeal in consultation with two other members of the Executive Council. All notices of disqualification and appeals are referred to the full Executive Council for final consideration which shall, by majority vote, affirm or reject the disqualification.
- d. The Executive Vice President shall transmit the decision of the Executive Council in writing to the appellant and to the Dean, or designee, of the collegiate chapter.

#### **ARTICLE IV: MEMBER CHAPTERS**

Member Chapters of The Rho Chi Society may be established at universities, schools, or colleges that are members of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, and have curricular programs that are accredited by appropriate state and regional accrediting bodies and ("full accreditation") by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) or the Canadian Council for the Accreditation of Pharmacy Programs.

**Section 1.** At least five membership-eligible students shall be necessary for the establishment of a chapter. The petition for a chapter is sent to the National Office for submission to the Executive Council. If the petition is approved by a majority vote of the Council, it shall be sent to the active chapters for their approval. An affirmative vote of three-fourths of the active chapters shall be necessary for the granting of a charter.

**Section 2.** Charter fees for new chapters will be set by the Executive Council. The charter fee, paid to the National Office at the time a petition is submitted, does not include costs for national member fees for charter members. Additional costs include expenses incurred for a national officer to preside during the chapter installation.

**Section 3.** Any chapter failing for three successive years to have a delegate in attendance at the National Convention shall be declared "Inactive" by the Executive Council and may not elect members unless and until reinstated.

**Section 4.** A chapter may be declared "Inactive" by the Executive Council when the school or college in which the chapter is located has been placed on probation or fails to attain or retain accreditation by appropriate state or regional accrediting bodies, the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education, or by the Canadian Council for the Accreditation of Pharmacy Programs. As an "Inactive" chapter, that chapter may not elect new members unless and until reinstated.



**Section 5.** An “Inactive” chapter may be considered for reinstatement through petition to the Executive Council. Such petition, as a minimum, shall be in the form of letters of appeal and commitment from both the chapter advisor and dean of the school or college. Reinstatement will require a two-thirds vote of the Executive Council.

#### **ARTICLE V: NATIONAL OFFICERS AND REGIONAL COUNCILORS**

**Section 1.** The National Officers shall include a President, Immediate Past-President, President-Elect, Executive Vice President, Secretary, and Historian. Regional Councilors shall represent specific geographic regions defined in concordance with national Pharmacy organizations such as the American Pharmacists Association (and its Academy of Students of Pharmacy) and/or the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (and the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy) or as specified by the Society’s Executive Council.

**Section 2.** National Officers and Regional Councilors shall serve two-year terms, with the exception of the Executive Vice President, who shall serve a five-year term. The Executive Vice President, National Secretary and Historian may be elected to successive terms without limit, while Regional Councilors may be elected to two successive two-year terms.

**Section 3.** The candidates for national office shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee. At least one candidate shall be nominated for each office. Biographical information on all candidates will be distributed to chapter delegates and alternates by the National Office prior to the National Convention. Additional nominations from the floor of the Convention may be made by any delegate who has a biographical sketch and a signed statement from the nominee agreeing to serve, if elected.

**Section 4.** The election of National Officers and Regional Councilors shall take place at the National Convention of the Society unless the President calls for a special election. Election will be conducted by written ballot. A simple majority of the votes cast by the delegates in attendance and voting will be required to elect. In the event of a tie vote, the Executive Vice President shall break the tie by polling the remaining National Officers.

All delegates or alternates representing member chapters shall be eligible to cast ballots for National Officers but only delegates or alternates from Chapters within the geographic region shall be eligible to cast ballots for the Councilor to be elected from that region. The Executive Vice President shall be elected by majority vote of the Executive Council from among one or more nominees presented by the National President.

**Section 5.** The officers thus elected shall take office upon installation at the close of the National Convention. They shall serve for two years or until their successors are duly elected and installed.

**Section 6.** A national officer other than the Executive Vice President may be removed from office by a three-fourths vote of active chapters. The Executive Vice President may be removed from office by three-fourths vote of the Executive Council.

**Section 7.** If for any reason a vacancy occurs in any national office, it shall be filled by the Executive Council.

#### **ARTICLE VI: RESPONSIBILITIES OF NATIONAL OFFICERS AND REGIONAL COUNCILORS**

**Section 1. *National President.*** The National President shall perform such duties as usually pertain to the office of president including, but not limited to, planning and presiding over the National Convention of the Society and meetings of the Executive Council, appointing members to committees of the Society, and installing new chapters.

**Section 2. *Executive Vice President.*** The Executive Vice President is the chief administrative officer of the Society. The Executive Vice President shall conduct the business of the Society in accord with the Society's Bylaws and with policies established by the Executive Council. As executive head of the Society, this officer shall direct the National Office and shall employ, direct, and supervise all members of the Society's staff. The Executive Vice President shall represent the Society to the Association of College Honor Societies. The Executive Vice President shall receive suitable compensation as determined by the Executive Council.

**Section 3. *President-Elect.*** In the absence of the National President, the National President-elect shall perform the duties of the office of the National President. The President-elect shall chair the Chapter Awards Committee.

**Section 4. *Secretary.*** The National Secretary shall, in consultation with the National President and Executive Vice President, develop the agenda for the National Convention of the Society and the Executive Council meetings. The National Secretary shall record and maintain the records of the proceedings of those meetings and distribute copies to local chapters and members of the Executive Council via the National Office.

**Section 5. *Historian.*** The Historian shall gather the archival records of the Society and shall forward these to the National Office, which will serve as the repository for these records. The National Historian shall serve as the editor of the publication *The Rho Chi Society* and, at the discretion of the Executive Council, provide for the periodic revision and update of that publication. The Historian shall also serve as ex-officio Chair of the Rho Chi Lecture Award Committee.

**Section 6. **Regional (Guide 15) Councilors.**** Regional Councilors are members of The Rho Chi Society who represent the interests of chapters in their region on the Executive Council and who promote the mission and vision of the Society through their interactions with the chapters they represent. In many instances, Regional Councilors will be or will have been Faculty Advisors for their school or college chapter. In their role, Regional Councilors serve as the elected representatives of the chapters in their region and thus, are a critical link to the National organization. Regional Councilors should have a thorough knowledge of the Society and its Bylaws, especially as they apply to local chapter conduct. Regional Councilor responsibilities include but are not limited to:

***Guide (15) Regional Councilors are your elected representatives. Please communicate any questions, issues, concerns, best practices, etc. to them. They are knowledgeable and helpful resources that can assist advisors and chapters.***

- (a) advising local chapter advisors and officers in determinations of eligibility for membership in the Society, election of new members, submission of Chapter Membership Election Reports, and initiation of new members;
- (b) facilitating discussion of common interests among regional chapter officers;
- (c) informing and guiding local chapter officers and members regarding Society awards and scholarships;
- (d) encouraging timely reporting of chapter officers' names and contact information to the National Office;

- (e) ensuring that timely, complete, and accurate chapter reports are submitted to the National Office. Likewise, Councilors should reinforce information from the National Office directed to Advisors, Officers, and members;
- (f) ensuring chapter representation at the Society's National Convention; and
- (g) participating in scheduled meetings of the Society and its Executive Council.

## **ARTICLE VII: COMMITTEES**

**Section 1.** The Society shall have the following standing committees: Nominating, Scholarship/Fellowship, Faculty Advisor Award, Rho Chi Lecture Award, Chapter Awards, and Auditing. These committees shall report each year at the Annual Convention of the Society.

**Section 2. *Nominating Committee:*** The Nominating Committee shall consist of the Immediate Past-President, who serves as Chair, and the Regional Councilors. Councilors from the even-numbered regions shall be appointed to the committee in even-numbered years and those from the odd-numbered regions shall be appointed to the committee in odd numbered years. It shall be the duty of the Nominating Committee to provide nominees for the office of President-elect and Councilors for the even-numbered regions in odd-numbered years and for Secretary, Historian and Councilors for the odd-numbered regions in even-numbered years. The Committee shall develop a slate of new officers and councilors by October when the Committee will present the slate for review by the full Executive Council.

**Section 3. *Faculty Advisor Award Committee:*** The Faculty Advisor Award Committee shall consist of the Award recipients from the previous three years. The recipient with three years tenure on the committee shall act as chair. It shall be the duty of the Faculty Advisor Award Committee to solicit nominations and select the recipient of the Rho Chi Faculty Advisor Award.

**Section 4. *Rho Chi Lecture Award Committee:*** The Rho Chi Lecture Award Committee is composed of three members appointed by the National President. The appointment is for three years. It shall be the duty of the Lecture Award Committee to: review the nominations process and recommend changes that would improve the number of nominations received by the Executive Council; solicit nominations for the Rho Chi Lecture Award; present the top nominees to the Executive Council; and coordinate the hosting of the Rho Chi Lecture Award recipient at the National Convention.

**Section 5. *Chapter Awards Committee:*** The Chapter Awards Committee shall consist of the President-Elect, who serves as Chair, and the eleven Regional Councilors. It shall be the responsibility of the Chapter Awards Committee to select recipients for the Rho Chi Chapter Achievement and Rho Chi Chapter Project Proposal Awards.

**Section 6. *Scholarship/Fellowship Committee:*** The Scholarship/Fellowship Committee is composed of three members appointed by the National President for six-year terms. The President of the American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education serves as an *ex officio* member of the selection committee for the Rho Chi – AFPE First Year Graduate Scholarship. The term of the members shall be staggered with the National President making an appointment of new members in odd-numbered years. Committee members serve as Chair during the final two years of their six-year term. It shall be the responsibility of the Committee to promote the availability of all Rho Chi Scholarships and Fellowships, review applications and determine recipients for scholarships, the number and amount of which, if any, is determined by the Executive Council. Recipients shall be announced at the National Convention.

**Section 7. *Auditing Committee:*** The Auditing Committee shall consist of three members

appointed annually by the National President. It shall be the duty of the Auditing Committee to audit the financial records of the Society for the immediate past year and to report the results of the audit at the National Convention.

#### **ARTICLE VIII: CHAPTER OFFICERS**

Each member chapter shall designate in its bylaws the following elected offices: President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer (or a Secretary and a Treasurer) and Historian. A member chapter may have additional elected officers as deemed necessary by the chapter. Each member chapter shall designate in its bylaws the duties of the officers, the duration of their office, and the manner of their election. Each member chapter shall have a faculty advisor.

**Section 1.** Based on the individual Chapter's Constitution and/or Bylaws, additional duties may be assigned to the elected Chapter officers. Additional officers may be elected, as prescribed by the Chapter's Constitution and Bylaws, to fulfill the needs of the Chapter.

**Chapter President:** The Chapter President is the presiding officer of the local Rho Chi Society Chapter and shall conduct the chapter in a fashion consistent with the vision and mission of the Society. It shall be the responsibility of the Chapter President to:

- (a) in consultation with fellow officers and members, establish the agenda for Chapter meetings and at the appointed time, call the meeting to order after ascertaining that a quorum is present.
- (b) conduct the business scheduled to come before the assembled Chapter members.
- (c) state and put to vote all questions that legitimately come before the Chapter members as motions and to announce the result of each vote.
- (d) expedite business in every way compatible with the rights of members, including deciding all questions of order.
- (e) authenticate when necessary, all acts, orders and proceedings of the assembled membership.
- (f) declare meetings adjourned when the assembled membership so votes or at the time prescribed.

**Section 3. *Chapter Vice President:*** The Chapter Vice President, in the absence of the President, assumes the responsibilities of the President.

**Section 4. *Chapter Secretary:*** The Chapter Secretary is the recording officer for the chapter and custodian of its records, except those specifically assigned to others. It shall be the responsibility of the Chapter Secretary to:

- (a) serve as the primary communication conduit between the Chapter Officers and Chapter membership
- (b) keep a record of all proceedings (minutes) of the chapter.
- (c) keep on file all Chapter committee reports.
- (d) keep the Chapter's official membership roll.
- (e) make the minutes and records available to Chapter members upon request.
- (f) notify officers, committee members and delegates of their election or appointment and furnish committees with documents required to perform their duties.

- (g) maintain paper-based or electronic records in which the bylaws, special rules of order, standing rules and minutes are entered
- (h) prepare, in consultation with the presiding officer, an order of business for each meeting.
- (i) in the temporary absence of the Chapter President and Vice President, call the meeting to order and preside. In the permanent absence of the Chapter President and Vice President, the Secretary shall serve as President until an election replacing the President is held.

**Section 5. Chapter Treasurer:** The Chapter Treasurer is the officer entrusted with the Chapter funds. The specific duties will vary depending on the individual chapter Bylaws. The Treasurer cannot disburse funds except by authority of the Chapter or as the Chapter Bylaws prescribe. The Treasurer should assume responsibility for the preparation of the budget for the year in which s/he holds office, and is required to make a full financial report annually or as prescribed by the Chapter's Bylaws.

**Section 6. Chapter Historian:** The specific duties will vary depending on the individual chapter Bylaws. Together with the Chapter Secretary, the Chapter Historian shall prepare and submit the Chapter's Annual Report to the Society's National Office, and maintain a narrative or photographic archive of significant chapter activities during his/her term of office.

**Section 7. Faculty (Guide 16) Advisor(s):** Rho Chi Society Faculty Advisors are faculty members of their respective institution who are members of The Rho Chi Society, who have an interest in the welfare of local student members and their chapter, and who are appointed in their role by the Dean (or designee) of the School or College of Pharmacy. The Society does not require a limit in the length of an appointment as Faculty Advisor. Faculty Advisors are a critical link to the National organization and in effect, act as the local representative of the Society. In that role, they should have a working knowledge of the Society and its Bylaws, especially as they apply to local chapter conduct. Advisor responsibilities include but are not limited to:

**Guide (16) Please refer to the Rho Chi Advisor Handbook for additional guidance and best practices.**

- (a) Direction and review of local determinations of eligibility for membership in the Society. Direction of local chapter elections of new members, review and timely submission of Chapter Membership Election Reports, and conduct of local initiation of new members.
- (b) Ensuring that timely, complete, and accurate chapter reports are submitted to the National Office. Likewise, the advisor should distribute information from the National Office directed to Advisors, Officers, and members.
- (c) Informing and guiding local chapter officers and members regarding Society awards and scholarships.
- (d) Timely reporting of chapter officers' names and contact information to the National Office.
- (e) Ensuring Chapter representation at the Society's National Convention. Advisors are encouraged to attend the National Conventions of Rho Chi and may act as delegate in the absence of a student delegate.
- (f) Attendance at all official Chapter meetings.
- (g) Assuring that the financial matters of the local chapter are in good order.

(h) Attendance at Society-conducted Faculty Advisors' meetings.

#### **ARTICLE IX: THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

**Section 1.** The Executive Council shall be the governing body of the Society. It shall transact business relating to the Society as a whole in the interim between National Conventions.

**Section 2.** The Executive Council shall consist of the National Officers, Regional Councilors, and Student Representatives who shall be members of Chapters receiving the most recent Chapter Awards. Student Representatives shall be installed with newly-elected National Officers and Regional Councilors at the National Convention and shall serve until replaced by Student Representatives at the next or succeeding National Convention.

#### **ARTICLE X: THE NATIONAL OFFICE**

**Section 1.** The Society shall establish and maintain a National Office adequately staffed and equipped to serve the members of the Society.

**Section 2.** The duties and responsibilities of the National Office of the Society shall include: supervision of the election of new members of the Society and maintenance of membership records, issuance of charters and installation of new chapters, assistance to national officers in the conduct of the duties and responsibilities of their respective offices, publication of reports and papers as requested by the Executive Council, management of the financial assets and liabilities of the Society, and other duties as authorized by the Executive Council. Management of the finances of the Society shall be handled in accordance with policies established by the Executive Council and shall be subject to annual review by the Auditing Committee.

#### **ARTICLE XI: NATIONAL CONVENTIONS**

**Section 1.** A National Convention of the Society shall be held annually to conduct the business of the Society. The Executive Council shall have the authority to designate the time and place of the convention.

**Section 2.** The agenda for the National Convention shall be determined by the National President in consultation with the Executive Vice President and the National Secretary.

**Section 3.** Each active chapter shall be entitled to one voting delegate and one alternate. Alternate delegates shall be allowed all privileges, but may only vote in the absence of the voting delegate. Chapters are encouraged to assist delegates and alternates in meeting expenses associated with attendance at the National Convention.

**Section 4.** Chapters shall report their official delegates to the National Office prior to the National Convention as directed by the Society's National Office.

**Section 5.** The voting body of the National Convention shall consist of one delegate or alternate delegate from each chapter and the National Officers. Proxies shall not be recognized. Voting delegates from one-third of the active chapters shall constitute a quorum. In the event of a quorum being unobtainable, business may be transacted and then communicated to chapters for ratification, which will require a two-thirds affirmative vote.

**Section 6.** In advance of the National Convention, the National President shall appoint an ad hoc Credentials Committee usually composed of the faculty advisor(s) and members of chapters in the vicinity of the National Convention. The Credentials Committee will seat chapter delegates and alternates, report chapters in attendance, and declare chapters absent. During the National

Convention, the Committee will also collect and count ballots and report election results for national offices to the Executive Vice President.

#### **ARTICLE XII: AMENDMENTS**

**Section 1.** All amendments to these Bylaws shall be presented in writing at the National Convention or to each member chapter through the National Office.

**Section 2.** Amendments shall require an affirmative vote by a majority of the Executive Council and an affirmative vote by three-fourths of the total number of active member chapters for their approval. Ordinarily, balloting on all new amendments shall take place at the National Convention, but special balloting on amendments may be authorized by the Executive Council at its discretion.

#### **ARTICLE XIII: DISSOLUTION**

**Section 1.** In the event a collegiate chapter becomes inactive or its charter is revoked, all funds on hand after liabilities have been paid, all equipment bearing the name of the Society, and all records pertaining to chapter activities shall revert to the Society. Appropriate arrangements for storage or disposition of these materials shall be made by the National Office.

**Section 2.** Upon dissolution of the Society, the assets of the Society shall, after payment of all liabilities, be distributed equally to all colleges and universities where member chapters reside to be used for the education of pharmacy students.