

# NATIONAL CONSTITUTION

## PI ALPHA XI

### THE HONOR SOCIETY FOR HORTICULTURE

#### ARTICLE I

##### Section I.

The full, legal name of this organization shall be Pi Alpha Xi, The Honor Society for Horticulture, abbreviated as P.A.X.

P.A.X. was founded in 1923 as an honor society for floriculture. Over time, it expanded to include landscape horticulture and ornamental horticulture.

The meaning of the Honor Society for Horticulture is to be interpreted as a professional Honor Society for those engaged in horticulture. Chapters may choose to continue the tradition of honoring only those students with an interest in Floriculture, Landscape Horticulture and Ornamental Horticulture.

##### Section II.

The purposes of this Honor Society are to recognize high scholarship, to foster good relationships among its members, to promote or to facilitate the exchange of ideas among members of the professions, and to establish cordial relations among students, educators, and industry members.

#### ARTICLE II

##### Chapters

##### Section I.

Any university or college offering four years of baccalaureate instruction in horticulture is eligible to establish a chapter.

##### Section II.

A petition for the establishment of a new chapter shall be presented to the Board of Directors through the office of the National Secretary-Treasurer. Upon consent of the Board of Directors, the petition shall be referred to all active chapters, by

referendum at the National Convention or by mail or electronic correspondence. Upon affirmative vote of two-thirds of the active chapters, the President shall issue a proclamation of acceptance.

Section III.

Such petitioning group shall stand the expense of installation and shall at the time of installation deposit with the National Secretary-Treasurer the regular initiation fee for each of the members. The chapter shall be exempt from further payment of dues for the remainder of the school year, except for members initiated after the installation of a new chapter.

Section IV.

An active chapter of Pi Alpha Xi may be declared inactive by the National President or by the Board of Directors upon the request of the chapter concerned or recognized staff advisor of the chapter, or after lapse of dues payment for a period of more than three years. Such an inactive chapter may become active again with the approval of the National President or the Board of Directors upon payment of chapter dues for the current year and one year in arrears. Inactive chapters may not initiate members, propose honorary members, or have a vote at a National Convention. Nothing, however, shall prevent duly initiated Pi Alpha Xi members at an institution with an inactive chapter, or any member duly initiated by that chapter, from holding a national office or committee appointment, or otherwise exerting membership rights in Pi Alpha Xi.

## ARTICLE III

### Membership

Section I.

The membership of Pi Alpha Xi shall be open to all persons engaged in horticulture provided they meet the eligibility requirements and shall consist of four categories: Active, Associate, Alumni, and Honorary.

(a) Active Membership:

Active membership shall be restricted to the institution at which there is a chapter of Pi Alpha Xi and shall consist of the following three groups:

1. Regularly enrolled students studying horticulture and having attained at least junior standing are eligible for membership. The student must have an overall grade point average of 3.00/4.00 (or equivalent).
2. Graduate students studying horticulture and in good academic standing after at least one academic term are eligible for membership. The student should show promise of continued activity and interest in the field.

3. Members of the faculty of horticulture.

Individual chapters may choose to elect a higher minimum grade point average.

(b) Associate Membership:

Faculty members from disciplines other than horticulture at an institution where there is a chapter of Pi Alpha Xi, who are contributing to the advancement of horticulture, are eligible for membership.

(c) Alumni Membership:

Any active member who is in good standing upon withdrawal, graduation, resignation, or retirement from his/her institution shall automatically become an alumnus/alumna.

(d) Honorary Membership:

In the initiation of commercial persons to honorary membership, every effort should be made to limit this group to individuals of high educational attainments as well as commercial prominence. Honorary membership shall consist of Chapter Honorary and National Honorary memberships and shall meet one of the following three criteria:

1. Persons who have rendered marked service in the advancement of horticulture.
2. Persons engaged in teaching, extension or research work of benefit to horticulture at an institution where there is no active chapter of Pi Alpha Xi.
3. Persons holding a college degree who have attained a distinguished position in the field.

Honorary members shall have no vote in any regular meeting and shall not be eligible to hold office.

## ARTICLE IV

### Election to Membership

#### Section I.

Active Members: Nomination to membership shall be submitted to the President of the local chapter and approved by the chapter's active members.

Section II.

Associate Members: Associate members shall be approved and inducted by the local chapter at their institution.

Section III.

Honorary Members:

(a) National Honorary Members. Nominations for National Honorary Members shall be submitted to the Board of Directors through the National Secretary-Treasurer by ten members (active, associate or alumni) who are sponsoring the candidate. Election of National Honorary Members shall be by majority vote of the Board of Directors. Those persons elected to National Honorary membership shall be initiated at the National Convention. If for some good reason the initiate cannot be present at the National Convention, the Board of Directors may arrange for his/her initiation through one of the active chapters.

(b) Chapter Honorary Members. Selection of Chapter Honorary Members shall be made by local chapters and will not require action by the Board of Directors of Pi Alpha Xi National.

Section IV.

Active and Associate: Members and alumni shall be accepted for active and associate membership by payment of national and local initiation fees and dues. A member of one chapter may become affiliated with another chapter as an active or associate member by paying local dues without obligations to another chapter.

## ARTICLE V

### Initiation

Section I.

Election of members having been carried out as prescribed in Article IV, the members-elect shall be duly initiated according to the by-laws of each chapter and Section II of this article before they exercise the privileges of this Honor Society.

Section II.

(a) The ceremony of initiation shall be that prescribed in the ritual as authorized by the Board of Directors.

(b) The members-elect shall be inducted into the presence of the chapter and the President shall then explain the aims and purposes of the Honor Society as

set forth in Article I.

(c) The pledge, as provided in the ritual, shall be administered by the President.

(d) The President shall then address those who have taken the pledge by pronouncing them members of Pi Alpha Xi Honor Society and shall direct them to sign the chapter's official membership roster.

(e) The President shall then award the newly initiated members certificates of membership and present them to the chapter.

## ARTICLE VI

### Insignia

#### Section I.

The insignia shall have the Egyptian hoe and ancient vase (as described in the Explanatory of the Initiation Ritual), symbolizing ancient and modern floriculture, landscape horticulture and ornamental horticulture, the historical specialties recognized by Pi Alpha Xi.

#### Section II.

The flower of the Honor Society shall be the Lotus of the Nile.

#### Section III.

The colors of the Honor Society shall be lotus blue and Nile green.

#### Section IV.

The insignia that may be worn by members shall be the lapel pin of the Honor Society, which may be obtained from the Secretary-Treasurer by authorization of the President of the local chapter.

#### Section V.

The official letterhead shall contain the insignia of the Honor Society.

## ARTICLE VII

### Officers and Standing Committees of the Honor Society

#### Section I.

The National officers of the Honor Society shall consist of a President, Vice

President and Secretary-Treasurer.

Section II.

The affairs of the Honor Society between conventions shall be determined by a Board of Directors consisting of the President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer and the two immediate past presidents. The action of the majority of the Board of Directors shall be deemed to represent the action of the entire Board.

Section III.

The standing committees of the Honor Society shall be: Rules Committee, Publications and Membership Services Committee, Nominations Committee, Flower Judging Committee and Fellows Selection Committee.

## ARTICLE VIII

### Conventions

Section I.

(a) The National Convention shall be held once every year.

(b) Time and place of the convention is to be determined by the Board of Directors; preferably it should be associated with the annual meeting of the American Society for Horticultural Science.

(c) Notice shall be given to each chapter by the Secretary-Treasurer at least thirty days prior to the date of the meeting.

(d) The purpose of the convention shall be for exchange of information and discussion of Society business and to promote fellowship among all Society members.

Section II.

Society business needing a vote will be approved by at least two thirds of members present at the National Convention, or be approved by two thirds of chapters by written ballot. The President, with the advice of the Board of Directors, will decide if the business requiring a vote will be by chapter or individual.

## ARTICLE IX

### Amendments

A proposed amendment to the National Constitution must be presented to the National Secretary-Treasurer in writing or via email with an electronic signature by the sponsoring member or members. The National Secretary-Treasurer shall forward the proposed amendment to the National President. The Constitution may be amended by proposal at the National Convention, by proposal through the Board of Directors sixty days before the National Convention, or by proposal through the Board of Directors via electronic communication. Ratification shall require an affirmative vote by two thirds of the active chapters before the succeeding Convention. Any chapter failing to notify the Secretary-Treasurer of its action by the end of two months during the academic year (August through June, depending upon the chapters' individual academic calendars) shall be recorded as voting for the amendment.

# BY-LAWS OF NATIONAL CONSTITUTION

## SECTION I

### Nominations and Election of Officers, and Appointments to Standing Committees

(a) Nominations and Election of Officers. Election of officers shall be held every two years at the National Convention. The President shall appoint a Nominations Committee to select nominees for President, Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer at least thirty days before the National Convention. These officers shall be elected during the course of the convention. The term of office shall be from the close of the convention in which elected to the close of the convention held two years later.

(b) Appointment to Standing Committees. The President shall appoint members to the standing committees. A member of the Board of Directors or his/her appointed representative shall serve on each standing committee.

## SECTION II

### Duties of Officers and Standing Committees

#### (a) Duties of Officers

##### (1) President.

The President shall conduct the convention, supervise the actions of the Board of Directors, and perform other duties that normally come under the office of President.

##### (2) Vice President.

The Vice President shall assume the duties of President in the absence of the President. The Vice President shall serve as editor and publisher of the Lotus Leaflet and shall coordinate the Pi Alpha Xi web site.

##### (3) Secretary-Treasurer.

The Secretary-Treasurer shall keep a record of all the members of the Honor Society, furnish lapel pins and certificates upon the order of the President of any chapter, keep a record of the minutes of the convention, take charge of the funds of the Honor Society, keep the financial accounts in a complete and orderly way, and perform such other duties that normally come under the office. The accounts shall be submitted to the Convention, at which time they shall be audited by a public accountant or by at least two members in good standing. The books may be inspected at

any time by any member in good standing, in the presence of the Secretary-Treasurer.

(b) Duties of Standing Committees

(1) Rules Committee.

The Rules Committee shall review the Constitution and By-Laws of the Honor Society and suggest changes or additions to the membership.

(2) Publications and Membership Services Committee.

The Publications and Membership Services Committee shall coordinate the publication of the Recruitment Brochure, Flower Judging Manual, Flower Judging Participation and Awards Certificates, and other publications of the Honor Society.

(3) Nominations Committee.

The Nominations Committee shall develop a slate of candidates for National Offices and present the slate at the National Meeting.

(4) Contest Committee.

The Contest Committee shall oversee the activities of the National Intercollegiate Floral Crop Quality Evaluation and Floral Design Contest.

(5) Fellows Selection Committee.

The Fellows Selection Committee shall solicit nominations for Fellows of the Society and be responsible for assembling support documentation for selection.

### SECTION III

#### Filling Vacancies

If the office of President becomes vacant it shall be filled by the Vice President. If any other office becomes vacant between conventions it shall be filled by the action of the Board of Directors.

### SECTION IV

#### Initiation Fees and Dues

(a) The fiscal year of the Honor Society for the determination of dues shall be from July 1 -June 30.

(b) National dues of each chapter shall be set by the Board of Directors.

(c) The National initiation fee shall be set by the Board of Directors. Each initiate shall receive a Pi Alpha Xi lapel pin and certificate.

(d) Chapter dues and chapter initiation fees shall be determined by the individual chapters of the Honor Society. Chapter Honorary members may not be assessed for any dues other than for the initiation fee.

## SECTION V

### Procedures for Handling Funds

(a) A National initiation fee for each member is to be forwarded to the National Secretary-Treasurer by the Treasurer of the local chapter. The check is to be made payable to Pi Alpha Xi National Secretary-Treasurer. The National Secretary-Treasurer will order certificates and recognition lapel pins. Only the National Secretary-Treasurer shall supply lapel pins and certificates.

(b) To order additional or replacement lapel pins, the Treasurer of a local chapter shall send payment to the National Secretary-Treasurer along with the name, chapter number, and date of initiation of the member desiring the lapel pin. The Secretary-Treasurer shall order and pay for the same as stated above.

(c) The National Secretary-Treasurer shall be the only one to disperse National funds. The National Secretary-Treasurer will pay bills for goods or services rendered with presentation of receipt or verification by another National officer.

(d) The Board of Directors shall establish an annual budget for the National Secretary-Treasurer to help defray the cost of maintaining records, printing certificates and performing other duties of the office.

(e) Information concerning the national organization must be in writing from one of the National officers to be considered authentic.

## SECTION VI

### Official Publication

The official publication of the Honor Society shall be the Lotus Leaflet, which shall be in the form of a newsletter. The publication shall be financed by the National Treasury. One copy of the current issue shall be distributed gratis to each chapter in good standing.

## SECTION VII

### Voting Procedures

- (a) Nomination and election of officers (See By-Laws Section Ia).
- (b) Constitutional amendments (See Constitution Article IX).
- (c) By-Laws Amendments (See By-Laws Section X).
- (d) Business of the Society (See Constitution Article VIII Section 2).

## SECTION VIII

### Expulsion of Members

(a) Active and Associate Members. The privileges of the Honor Society may be denied to any active or associate member by the action of the chapter granting the membership. When such action is contemplated, the member in question must be given an opportunity to make a defense either in person or in writing. The member shall be notified in writing (registered mail, return receipt required) of such proceedings ten days before any action may be taken. Following such defense, or if no defense is offered, proceedings may continue.

A vote of two thirds of a chapter's active and associate members is required to legalize an action for expulsion. The action of the chapter is final. Following such action, the chapter must notify the National Secretary-Treasurer, who shall strike the name of such expelled member from the National Records. Expelled members shall be required to return both their lapel pin and certificate to the chapter. In return, the Honor Society shall pay to such former member a sum of money equal to the entire cost of the lapel pin.

(b) Alumni and Honorary Members. The privileges of the Honor Society may be denied to any alumnus/alumna or honorary member by the following procedure: Preliminary action shall be instigated by the chapter or body responsible for such membership. The unanimous vote of the official body is necessary to continue the action. The results of such action, together with all evidence, shall then be transmitted to the National Secretary-Treasurer, who in turn shall notify the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall then proceed to evaluate the case and their decisions shall be final.

Expelled alumni and honorary members shall be required to return both their lapel pin and certificate to the National Honor Society. In return, the National

Secretary-Treasurer shall pay to such former member a sum of money equal to the entire cost of the lapel pin.

## SECTION IX

### Parliamentary Authority

For points not covered by the constitution or by-laws, Robert's "Rules of Order" shall be considered the authority.

## SECTION X

### Amendments

A proposed amendment to the By-Laws must be presented to the National Secretary-Treasurer in writing or via email with an electronic signature by a sponsoring member or members. The National Secretary-Treasurer shall forward the proposed amendment to the National President. The By-Laws may be amended by proposal at the National Convention, by proposal through the Board of Directors sixty days before the National Convention, or by proposal through the Board of Directors via electronic communication. Ratification shall require an affirmative vote by two thirds of the active chapters before the succeeding Convention. Any chapter failing to notify the Secretary-Treasurer of its action by the end of two months during the academic year (August through June, depending upon the chapters' individual academic calendars) shall be recorded as voting for the amendment.

## SECTION XI

### Fellows Award

(a) Criteria: The Fellows Award is given to Pi Alpha Xi members who have achieved marked service or excellence in the field of Floriculture, Landscape Horticulture or Ornamental Horticulture and/or distinguished themselves with meritorious service to Pi Alpha Xi.

(b) Guidelines and Procedures for Selection:

(1) No more than twenty-five of the living membership of Pi Alpha Xi shall be elected as Fellows.

(2) Only persons who were students when elected at a university shall be eligible.

- (3) Nomination shall be by three active members and merits and qualifications shall be documented in writing.
- (4) Nominees must be living at the time of selection.
- (5) Former National officers must be out of office for at least five years.
- (6) No more than five Fellows shall be selected per year.
- (7) A committee of five persons appointed by the National President, including the President, shall screen nominations.
- (8) The immediate past President of Pi Alpha Xi shall act as chair of the screening committee.
- (9) Fellows shall be given an appropriate certificate signed by the chair of the committee, the President, and the National Secretary-Treasurer, and shall be issued a key with appropriate inscription when honored at the National Meeting.

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Revised 2005 by Rules Committee of Mary Lewnes Albrecht (Univ. Tennessee), Kim Williams (Kansas State Univ.), Jim Klett (Colorado State Univ.), and Richard Harkess (Mississippi State Univ.). Ratified January 2006.

Revised 2000 by Rules Committee: Jack Buxton and Virginia Walter.

Revised 1992-94 by Rules Committee: Farrell Wise, Mary Albrecht, Jay Holcomb, David Hartley and Jack Buxton with additional editing by Terry Ferriss, Doug Needham, Barb Fails and Harvey Lang.

Revised 1986 by J. E. Klett and K. C. Sanderson.