

# **Bylaws of the GFWC of North Carolina Epsilon Sigma Omicron Organization**

## **ARTICLE I – Name**

The name of this organization shall be the GFWC of North Carolina Epsilon Sigma Omicron Organization, hereinafter referred to in these Bylaws as the “ESO Organization.”

## **ARTICLE II – Object**

The purpose for which the ESO Organization is formed is to unite GFWC of North Carolina (hereinafter referred to as “GFWC-NC”) participants of ESO into a statewide organization for the promotion of the goals of the General Federation of Women’s Clubs’ (hereinafter referred to as “GFWC”) organization of ESO as stated in the official ESO Handbook as well as below:

- A. To encourage clubwomen’s pursuit of higher education;
- B. To create an additional means to unite women in volunteerism;
- C. To develop a support network for women returning to school;
- D. To improve current and develop new study skills;
- E. To stimulate systematic home reading and study with minimum supervision;
- F. To encourage the establishment of home libraries and greater use of public libraries;
- G. To encourage the formation of reading/study/discussion groups.

## **ARTICLE III – Membership**

Section 1. Any clubwoman in good standing in a GFWC of North Carolina club shall be eligible for membership in the ESO Organization.

Section 2. Method of admitting members:

- A. To become a member, an applicant must pass through a Pledge stage. To become a pledge, the applicant must fill out the “Pledge Application” and return it to the State ESO Chairman. The “Pledge Application” can be found in the “What is ESO?” handout as well as in the official ESO Handbook. Both can be obtained from the State ESO Chairman.
- B. Applicants should submit their enrollment fee along with their application to the State ESO Chairman. Checks should be made payable to GFWC-NC and designated for the ESO Organization.
- C. Once the “Pledge Application” and enrollment fee are received, the State ESO Chairman will send, either by mail or by e-mail, an official ESO Handbook to the applicant, who will now be known as a “Pledge.”
- D. To obtain “Member” Status, a Pledge must read 4 books in 4 different categories for a total of 16 books. She must write her brief opinion of each book using the “ESO Book Report for Pledge to Century” found on the GFWC-NC website under “Community Service/ESO.” She will send her reports by mail or by e-mail to the State ESO Chairman to receive credit.
- E. All book reports (one report = 4 books) must be completed and sent to the State ESO Chairman.
- F. To receive credit for achieving any new level (Member, Star, Torch, and Century 1) at the annual GFWC-NC Convention. These reports must have been postmarked no later than January 1.
- G. Pledges may take up to two years to achieve Member level. If, after two years, a clubwoman has not achieved Member level, she will be dropped from the ESO Organization roster.

Section 3: The membership of the GFWC-NC ESO Organization shall consist of participants at the following levels:

- A. Pledge – Has completed a “Pledge Application” and has started working towards fulfilling the reading requirements.
- B. Member – Has completed the requirements of membership—4 books in each of 4 different categories for a total of 16 books.
- C. Star – Has completed the requirements of the Star level—4 books in each of 6 additional categories for a cumulative total of 40 books. Categories may not be duplicated from the Member level.
- D. Torch – Has completed the requirements of the Torch level—4 books in each of 6 additional categories for a cumulative total of 64 books. Categories may not be duplicated from the Member and Star levels. The Member will have read 4 books in 16 different categories.
- E. Century – Has read an additional 4 books in 9 different categories. These categories may be repeated from the Member, Star and/or Torch levels, for a total of 100 books.
- F. 2<sup>nd</sup> Century and beyond - members may also continue on to reach additional Century levels by reading 100 books. Books read to achieve these may be in duplicate categories.
- G. Diamond-Has completed Century 10 and a total of 1,000 books.
- H. All book reports must be completed (4 books = 1 completed report) and sent to the State ESO Chairman by January 1 to receive credit for achieving a new level at the annual GFWC-NC convention.
- I. Following attainment of Century Level, book reports will not be required, only a list of books read.

Section 4. Enrollment fees:

- A. The enrollment fee for ESO applicants shall be two dollars (\$2), non-refundable, and due upon applying for Pledge status.
- B. Enrollment fee checks should be made payable to GFWC-NC and designated for the ESO Organization.

Section 5. Withdrawal and reinstatement:

- A. Any member who desires to withdraw from the ESO Organization shall notify the ESO Chairman, in writing by mail or by e-mail.
- B. Any member who has withdrawn from the ESO Organization may re-apply for membership by submitting a written request to the State ESO Chairman. Upon payment of the enrollment fee, she may be reinstated.
- C. Any ESO participant who is no longer an active clubwoman in a GFWC-NC club or as a member-at-large, will be dropped from the GFWC-NC ESO Organization roster.

**ARTICLE IV – Officers**

Section 1. The sole officer of the ESO Organization shall be a Chairman.

Section 2. Any ESO Organization member in good standing shall be eligible to be appointed to this position.

Section 3. The incoming GFWC-NC President shall appoint a Chairman for the ESO Organization at the annual convention of GFWC of North Carolina. The term of office shall be for two years. The State ESO Chairman shall assume her office immediately following the annual convention in the same year when the new GFWC-NC officers are installed.

Section 4. The duties of the ESO Chairman shall be the following:

- A. Promoting the ESO Organization at all Federation meetings by using materials such as displays, handouts and by speaking on behalf of ESO where needed or requested.

- B. Maintaining the ESO roster of members and periodically updating GFWC-NC Headquarters on ESO Organization membership.
- C. Sending out ESO materials to new “Pledges” and others as needed and/or requested.
- D. Receiving enrollment fees from new “Pledges” and remitting them to GFWC-NC Headquarters for credit.
- E. Receiving, reviewing, and logging in book reports for each ESO participant.
- F. Communicating with GFWC-NC clubwomen through the following means:
  - 1. Articles placed in the NC Clubwoman;
  - 2. Updates placed in the GFWC-NC newsletters;
  - 3. Letters and/or updates mailed or e-mailed to ESO members.
- G. Preparing for and presiding over the annual meeting of the ESO Organization at the GFWC-NC annual convention.
- H. Reporting at the annual convention on the state of the ESO Organization as well as awarding any new levels achieved during the year to ESO Organization members.
- I. Preparing and sending annual reports to GFWC on the GFWC-NC ESO Organization’s membership, levels achieved at convention, and projects, programs and achievements of the year.

Section 5. A vacancy in the chairmanship is to be filled by appointment of the GFWC-NC President.

### **ARTICLE V – Meetings**

Section 1. The ESO Organization will meet once annually at the annual convention of GFWC-NC except when otherwise ordered by the Executive Committee of GFWC-NC and/or by the State ESO Chairman.

Section 2. Special meetings may be called by the State ESO Chairman who will notify ESO Organization members by mail, e-mail, or by placing a CALL in the GFWC-NC newsletter and giving at least one month’s notice.

Section 3. An annual meeting will be held for business and receiving annual reports.

Section 4. A two-thirds majority of those present and voting is required for the transaction of business.

### **ARTICLE VI – Awards**

Section 1. The State ESO Chairman shall present all ESO Awards at the annual convention of GFWC-NC. To achieve a new level at convention, all reports should have been postmarked by January 1, or in the case of an e-mail—dated January 1.

Section 2. A statewide award called the “ESO Participation Award” shall be awarded to the club with the highest percentage of members participating in the ESO program. For the purposes of these awards, “participation” is defined as the following:

- A. Any club members who have previously attained a “Level” in ESO— (i.e., Member, Star, Torch, Century or above.)
- B. Any club members who have mailed in a pledge application to the State ESO Chairman AND have submitted at least one completed book report (4 books in one category) to the State ESO Chairman within the previous calendar year prior to convention.

## **ARTICLE VII - Parliamentary Authority**

The rules contained in **Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised** shall govern the ESO Organization in all cases which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws and those of the GFWC of North Carolina and the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

## **ARTICLE VIII - Amendments to the Bylaws**

These bylaws may be amended at the annual meeting of the ESO Organization by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting, providing the proposed amendment has been submitted in writing to the members of the ESO Organization prior to the meeting.

Revised April 27, 2019

Amended April 17, 2021