

By-laws of the  
*Krewe of Chaos*

**1. Mission**

Krewe of Chaos is hereby established as a social organization with the sole purpose of bringing together family and friends to celebrate the merriment of fellowship year-round, with special emphasis placed on the Mardi Gras season. The source of our name, in Greek religion and mythology, means a great confusion of matter out of which a supreme being created all life.

**2. Membership**

- 2.1 Any person who is at least 21 years of age and recommended by a Krewe member in good standing, shall be eligible for membership.
- 2.2 A prospective member shall be admitted into the Krewe of Chaos (hereinafter, "Krewe") only if a majority of the Board of Directors votes in favor of the prospective member's admittance.
- 2.3 The Krewe will not have more than 200 members, not including the founding members and lifetime members. This number shall be reviewed as deemed necessary by the Board of Directors.
- 2.4 The Board of Directors may remove any member of the Krewe as a result of any infringement of the Krewe by-laws or non-payment of dues.
- 2.5 Family members, to include children and step-children of founding members and new spouses of current members in good standing shall have precedence in the admission process.
- 2.6 Lifetime membership will be awarded to those who have served as King or Queen. Lifetime members must still pay membership dues.
- 2.7 It is the sole responsibility of each individual member to keep the Co-Capitan of Krewe Relations informed of any changes in address.

**3. Fiscal**

- 3.1 The fiscal year of the organization shall be from May 1 to April 30.
- 3.2 The annual dues will be set by the Board of Directors and may be changed by a majority vote of the Board of Directors at any regular or special meeting.
- 3.3 Dues shall be paid from March 1 through April 30. Members who have not paid their dues in full by April 30 of the appropriate year may have their names deleted from the roster of members.
- 3.4 Payment of membership dues will include the right to invite two guests to the Krewe of Chaos Ball.
- 3.5 Founding members, after the first five (5) years of the Krewe's existence, shall have their dues reduced by 50%, provided that the Krewe is financially stable.
  - 3.5.1 To aid in determining whether the reduction should be made, the Co-Captain of Finances shall make a recommendation to the board of Directors preceding the dues payment period for the year 2010.
  - 3.5.2 If the dues are not reduced in 2010, the issue of dues reduction for the Board of Directors will be reviewed on an annual basis until such a reduction is made.

**4. Board of Directors and Officers**

- 4.1 The Board of Directors shall consist of the twenty (20) founding members. When any founding member does not retain his/her membership, said member will not be replaced unless the Board of Directors deems it necessary.
- 4.2 For recording purposes, the Founding Members/Board of Directors include the following: Jack and Colleen Desselle, Jason and Kristen Draper, Roger Jr. and Virginia Grimball, Shannon Hanson, Teena Hebert, Scott and Nicole Jackson, Bryan and Kodie Manning, Byron and Chelle Martin, Rodney and Mikki Myers, Timothy and Tracy Richard, and Thomas Jr. and Kristi Tyree.

- 4.3 The officers of the organization shall include the Captain (President), Co-Captain of Finances (Treasurer), Co-Captain of Krewe Events (Social Chair), and Co-Captain of Krewe Relations (Secretary).
- 4.4 Captain – The Captain shall call and preside at all meetings of the organization and will appoint any special committee chairs. S/he will be responsible for all aspects of the annual Ball. In all voting matters, the Captain shall vote last so that s/he may be the deciding vote in cases of a tie.
- 4.5 Co-Captain of Finances – This officer shall collect and deposit monies, pay all bills and maintain records of all financial transactions, which shall remain accessible for the inspection by the membership as periodically designated by the Captain. The Co-Captain of Finances shall present a written year-end financial statement to the membership at the general meeting following the fiscal year end, including a summary of all transactions and funds on hand. The Co-Captain of Finances will also be responsible for any tax-related filings that may be necessary. The Co-Captain of Finances is responsible for following any accounting procedures that may be ratified and reduced to writing by the Board of Directors.
- 4.6 Co-Captain of Krewe Events – This officer shall be responsible for the internal operations of Krewe activities and shall perform other duties as may be designated by the Board of Directors. In the absence of the Captain, this officer shall perform the duties of the Captain. This officer shall handle RSVP's for all events.
- 4.7 Co-Captain of Krewe Relations – This officer shall be responsible for recording the minutes of all meetings of the organization, provide publicity for the Krewe and shall perform other duties as may be designated by the Board of Directors.
- 4.8 Derelection of Duty – The Board of Directors may, upon the motion of any Director or Krewe officer at any meeting, remove any officer who is not performing the duties delineated above. Said removal shall only be effective following a vote of 2/3 of the Board of Directors.
- 4.8.1 Voting Requirements – An officer may be removed only if each Director has been given adequate notice of the meeting at which the proposed removal will be considered. A majority of the Board of Directors must vote during the meeting for the action taken to be valid. A Director may vote by participating via conference call. Any abstention by a participating Director will be counted as a “no” vote. In the event that the Captain's office is at issue, an officer designated by majority vote of the Board of Directors shall cast the deciding vote if there is a tie.
- 4.8.2 Notice – Written notice, or a phone call to the residence of a Director, received at least 24 hours before a meeting where an officer may be removed, is considered adequate notice. If the removal is discovered to be improper because all directors did not receive adequate notice, the removal action is merely voidable (not void) and may be ratified retroactively by the Board of Directors.
- 4.9 No one Krewe of Chaos member can act on behalf or represent the Krewe of Chaos pertaining to but not limited to events, media, functions without 1<sup>st</sup> obtaining approval by a majority vote of the Board of Directors pending the event is an approved function of the Krewe of Chaos. Exception being Captain &/or Board of Directors pending event is an approved function/event.
- 4.9.1 Each individual Krewe member is responsible for following Krewe of Chaos Code of Conduct approved by Board of Directors.
- .1 Refer to Krewe of Chaos Code of Conduct

## 5. Election of Officers

- 5.1 The initial officers of the Krewe will be chosen by the Board of Directors. Thereafter, the Captain, Co-Captain of Finances, Co-Captain of Krewe Events, and Co-Captain of Krewe Relations shall be elected by the membership.
- 5.1.1 Nomination Period: The nomination period for Krewe officers will run from May 1 – June 30 of the year prior to those officers taking office. For example, from May 1, 2006 through June 30, 2006 (and every two years after that) nominations

will take place for officers that will begin their terms during the fiscal year starting on May 1, 2007. Nominations must be made in writing to the Captain.

- 5.1.2 All eligible nominees must be approved by board of directors before ballots are sent in the mail.
- 5.1.3 Co-Captain of Finance must be a board member.
- 5.1.4 Ballots: Ballots will be mailed during the first week of July after the nomination period. Members will have 60 days from the postmark date on the ballot to return their completed ballots. For a ballot to be counted, the ballot must be received at the return address indicated on the ballot by the 60th day after the ballot was mailed out.
- 5.1.5 The candidate with the most votes for each office will be the winner for that particular office. In the event of a tie, the Captain shall cast the deciding vote.
- 5.1.6 Newly-elected officers will be announced at the Fall Social.
- 5.2 Officer candidates shall have been members in good standing for two (2) consecutive years.
- 5.3 Officers shall serve 2-year terms with no term limits.
- 5.4 Spouses of the same couple cannot both hold office during the same term. If both the husband and wife of a married couple are nominated for office during the same year, the Captain shall contact the couple in order to determine which of the two will be included on the election ballot.

## 6. Krewe Royalty

- 6.1 The Krewe's royalty shall include a King, Queen, four (4) Dukes, and four (4) Duchesses who will be selected by a random drawing from all current members who are in good standing with the Krewe. The King and Dukes must be male. The Queen and Duchesses must be female. The drawing will be the responsibility of the Board of Directors and will be completed at the annual meeting. The identities of the royalty will be kept secret until revealed at the annual Ball. Members who do not wish to serve as royalty must submit their request in writing to the Captain before the date of the annual meeting or they will automatically be included in the selection process.
- 6.2 A member may serve as King or Queen without previously having served as a Duke or Duchess. Once drawn as King or Queen, said member's name shall be removed from the drawing process for all subsequent drawings.
- 6.3 Prince/s and/or Princess/es can be included, at the discretion of the King and/or Queen, provided the prince/s and/or princess/es are the children or stepchildren of the King and/or Queen.
- 6.4 Royalty Apparel
  - 6.4.1 The Queen and Duchesses will wear white or off-white formal gowns of their own choice and purchase. The Krewe will provide the Royal collar, scepter, and crown for the Queen and royal Krewe sashes for each Duchess.
  - 6.4.2 The King and Dukes will wear formal black tuxes to include black jacket and pants and all other garments white or off-white. The Krewe will provide the Royal collar, scepter, and crown for the King and royal Krewe sashes for each Duke.
  - 6.4.3 If Prince/s and/or Princess/es are included in the Royalty, s/he shall follow the above dress requirements.
  - 6.4.4 If a single is chosen in the King or Queen drawing, s/he shall have the opportunity to choose a King or Queen from among the Krewe membership. Gifts to the Krewe Royalty shall be paid for out of Krewe funds.

## 7. Annual Ball

- 7.1 The organization's annual Ball shall be held in late January or early February, depending on availability of the ballroom facilities and the date of Mardi Gras.
- 7.2 The annual Ball will be a formal event for all attendees. Female members & guests must wear formal gowns and male members & guests are required to wear tuxedos. The Board of Directors requests that members and member's guests who are not on the royal court refrain from wearing attire described above in Subsection 6.4 of the bylaws.

- 7.3 The theme will be voted on by the membership each year. The voting for the theme will be handled in the same manner as the election ballot process with the exception that the theme vote will occur every year.
- 7.4 Any individual attending the Krewe of Chaos Ball, Halloween Bash, & any Krewe event in which alcohol is furnished by the Krewe shall be at least 21 years of age. Proper identification for proof of age must be furnished upon request of the Captain and/or Security.
- 7.5 Any guest attending the Krewe of Chaos Ball must be accompanied by a Krewe member.

## **8. Ball Invitations**

- 8.1 Each member shall be able to invite two (2) guests to the Ball by virtue of his or her membership. Further, depending on availability, members may be able to purchase Ball invitations for up to four (4) additional guests. Any member who desires to invite additional guests must contact the Co-Captain of Events who will disburse the additional invitations on a first come, first served basis. In the event that there are additional available invitations, those will also be disbursed on a first come, first served basis after an announcement by the Co-Captain of Events.
  - 8.1.1 In addition to the members' quota for Ball invitations mentioned in Subsection 8.1, the following Ball invitations will be provided at no charge for the following members:
    - .1 King and Queen: four (4) guests each
    - .2 Dukes and Duchesses: two (2) guests each
    - .3 Captain: two (2) guests each
    - .4 Other Officers: two (2) guests each
    - .5 Board Of Directors: two (2) guests each
- 8.2 Member's invitations cannot be sold or transferred to non-members.

## **9. Parade**

- 9.1 These by-laws will comport with all provisions governing parades and approved by Mardi Gras of Imperial Calcasieu, Inc., or any other appropriate entity that controls the Lake Charles Mardi Gras parade.
- 9.2 Any parade issues not falling under the purview of Subsection 9.1 may be handled by a temporary committee that may be formed by and at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

## **10. Meetings**

- 10.1 The Captain shall be responsible for calling all meetings.
- 10.2 An annual meeting will be held for the purpose of selecting a theme for the upcoming year, election of officers (in years in which it is necessary), and for discussion of any business deemed necessary by the membership.
- 10.3 "Robert's Rules of Order" will be followed at all times.

## **11. Disciplinary Policy**

- 11.1 All Krewe members must abide by the bylaws and/or other rules and regulations set in place by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party such as but not limited to SWLA Mardi Gras Association, Krewe of Krewes, City of Lake Charles, Event Locations, or disciplinary action will take place as follows
  - .1 1<sup>st</sup> offense: Verbal &/or written warning from Captain &/or Board Members
  - .2 2<sup>nd</sup> offense: Membership is relinquished and dues are non-refundable

## **12. Amendments to the By-laws**

Any member of the Krewe of Chaos may submit a proposed amendment to these by-laws. The proposed amendment should be in writing and forwarded to either an officer or member of the Board of Directors. The proposed amendment shall then be considered at the next meeting and voted upon using the same general voting requirements noted in Subsection 4.8. If the Board of Directors approves the proposed amendment, it will be presented for a vote by the general membership.

To pass, the proposed amendment must be approved by a 2/3 vote of the membership. Any proposed changes to the by-laws shall be handled via the balloting process noted in Subsection 5.1.2, with the exception that the ballots may be sent out at any time as deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors. The ballots will contain any additional instructions as may be deemed necessary by the Captain and/or Board of Directors.

Bylaws can be amended by 2/3 vote of the board.

**13. Point System**

13.1 Committee Chairs will be responsible for keeping up w/tally of points w/the sign in sheet and then turning into Captain.

13.2 Membership Participation Points will be accrued as follows:

- 1 point per 1 hour of participation of meetings.
- 1 point for hosting of meeting.
- 3 points for craft construction.
- 5 points for construction.
- 5 points for being present at Krewe of Krewes & SWLA Mardi Gras Association events.
- 5 points per hour for cleaning up after event.
- 5 points for bringing items to storage after event.

12.2.3 Type of Construction is at the discretion of the officers.

13.3 Officers, Committee Chairs, & Committee Co-Chairs will be given points for his/her position as follows:

Title	Set Points
All Officers	150
Historical Committee Chair	50
Royal Court Committee Chair	50
Royal Court Co-Chair	25
Summer Social Committee Chair	50
Summer Social Co-Chair	25
Halloween Bash Committee Chair	75
Halloween Bash Co-Chair	37.5
Ball Committee Chair	100
Ball Co-Chair	50
Float Committee Chair	100
Float Co-Chair	50
Gumbo Cook-off Committee Chair	50
Gumbo Cook-off Co-Chair	25

13.4 Membership Points accrued will be reviewed one week prior to the annual ball. Ball Table Placement will be based on points accrued by each member.

13.5 Float Eligibility will be as follows:

1. Royal Court Members
2. Officers & Spouses
3. Committee Chairs & Co-Chairs & Spouses
4. Float Committee Points & Spouses
5. Membership Accrued Points & Spouses

13.5.1 Spouse of eligible float participant must be a current member.

- 13.6 Members will stop accruing points 1 week prior to Annual Ball. Points will then be carried over into the following year.
- 13.6 Point System will reviewed on an annual basis.

### **Krewe of Chaos Code of Conduct**

All krewe members must conduct krewe affairs in such a way that there can be no opportunity for unfavorable reflections upon the krewe, either expressed or implied.

Endorsements, testimonials, publications, and participation in public affairs (particularly endorsements in the area of political affairs) should be undertaken by members cautiously and in a manner that clearly conveys that the activity is being undertaken as a private individual and not as an endorsement by the krewe. Only those officers and Directors so designated by the Board of Directors may act as spokespersons for the krewe and then only in the best interest of the organization.

The use of common sense, good ethical standards, and conduct which is in the best interest of the krewe along with following all guidelines established within the by-laws of the Krewe of Chaos organization is required of all members. Failure to maintain reasonable standards will be cause for disciplinary action. Any violation of this policy may be the basis for disciplinary action up to and including termination of membership.