

ITEM 6 - HOUSE CLEANING AMENDMENT

BYLAWS GOVERNING SUBORDINATE CHAPTERS

Article XIX, Section 4(b) - Sponsored Membership Petition Requirements

Authority: Article XXVII, Section 1 authorizes the Jurisprudence Committee to correct or clarify a provision of the Bylaws Governing Subordinate Chapters by deleting, adding, or substituting words, provided the change is made by motion and approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates present and voting at the Grand Chapter session.

Proposed Motion

Under the authority of Article XXVII, Section 1, be it moved that the third bullet under Article XIX, Section 4(b), PETITIONS FOR FEMALES, be amended as follows:

Current language:

"Letters of recommendation signed by the sponsors who are members of the Chapter if the woman is being sponsored for membership."

Be amended to read:

"One letter of recommendation signed by both sponsors (one sister and one brother, each a member of the Order in good standing) if the woman is petitioning under sponsored membership."

Basis for the Correction

General Grand Chapter Resolution 42, adopted at the 51st Triennial Assembly in 2024, established sponsored membership for women sponsored by a sister and brother who are members of the Order. Resolution 42 requires one letter of recommendation signed by both sponsors.

The January 2, 2025 General Grand Chapter letter further explains that Article VII(d) gives General Grand Chapter exclusive authority over qualifications for membership and that conflicting Grand Chapter provisions are of no effect. The adopted Resolution 42 wording therefore controls.

New Mexico Alignment

New Mexico incorporated the sponsored-membership eligibility category into Article XVIII, Qualifications for Membership, in 2025. Article XIX, Section 4(b), however, still uses "Letters" in the plural and requires the sponsors to be members of the particular Chapter receiving the petition. The proposed wording aligns Article XIX with Resolution 42 by requiring one letter signed by both sponsors, each a member of the Order in good standing, without requiring them to belong to the receiving Chapter.

Separate Chapter Recommendation Requirement

This amendment does not change Article XIX, Section 1, which separately requires every petition to be recommended by two members of the chapter. The sponsored-membership recommendation establishes eligibility under Resolution 42; the chapter-member recommendations support the petition before the local chapter. The same individuals may satisfy both requirements when they meet both sets of qualifications.

Effect: This amendment does not ask Grand Chapter to accept or reject sponsored membership. That qualification was established by General Grand Chapter and incorporated into New Mexico law in 2025. This amendment aligns Article XIX, Section 4(b), with Resolution 42 and removes the internal inconsistency between New Mexico's eligibility and petition provisions.

Legal and source basis: Article VII(d) of the General Grand Chapter Constitution gives General Grand Chapter exclusive authority over qualifications for membership; therefore, Resolution 42 controls over conflicting Grand Chapter provisions. See General Grand Chapter 51st Triennial Assembly Proceedings (2024), Resolution 42, printed pp. 699–705 and debate/vote, printed pp. 292–295; General Grand Chapter letter dated January 2, 2025; General Grand Chapter explanatory materials; and New Mexico Bylaws Governing Subordinate Chapters (2025), Articles XVIII, XIX, and XXVII.