

# CHI EPSILON

## NATIONAL CIVIL ENGINEERING HONOR SOCIETY



### The Constitution of Chi Epsilon<sup>1,2</sup>

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Latest Revision: May 2016

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<sup>1</sup> Incorporates modifications presented and approved during 2016 National Conclave

<sup>2</sup> Constitutional amendment necessary to fix omission error to satisfy Internal Revenue Code requirement to maintain 501(c)(3) Exempt Organization status



Chi-Epsilon National Headquarters  
MEMO

DATE: July 28, 2017

TO: File

RE: Amended Chi Epsilon Constitution  
As authorized at 2016 National Conclave Boston, MA  
March 10-12, 2016

Wording changes authorized during the 2016 Conclave along with changes required by the IRS to the Constitution of Chi Epsilon have been completed. Additionally, changes have been made to the structure of the document to remove elements which did not need to be attached to the Constitution. The Council was authorized to make changes to the Constitution and present changes to the Chapters for ratification during the 2016 Conclave.

Each chapter has received an amended copy of the Constitution for their records. According to Article VII – Methods of Amending: The Constitution may be amended by a three-quarters vote of the official delegates and members of the National Council present at a National Conclave, followed by the ratification of three-quarters of the active chapters. The Chapter vote shall require approval of three-quarters of the total active membership of the chapter.

The undersigned National Officers confirm ratification of the amended Constitution by a three-quarters vote of the official delegates at the 2016 National Conclave in Boston, MA during the General Body meeting on March 11, 2016. Additionally, the undersigned National Officers confirm ratification of the amended Constitution by three-quarters of the active Chapters of Chi Epsilon.

Thomas F. Wolff, PhD, PE  
Chi Epsilon  
National President

Michael D. Symans, PhD  
Chi Epsilon  
National Vice President

Chi Epsilon, Inc.  
Executive Director

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### APPENDIX A – REVISION HISTORY

# Constitution of Chi Epsilon

## Preamble

We, the members of the civil engineering community at various colleges and universities, believing that a mark of distinction should be placed on the undergraduate who has upheld the honor of the department by high scholastic ability, and believing that a society with the broad principles of scholarship, character, practicality, and sociability would be an incentive to greater achievements in the civil engineering profession, do adopt this constitution as a guiding instrument for this organization.

## Article I. Name

The name of this organization shall be Chi Epsilon.

## Article II. Vision, Purpose and Mission

### Section 2.01 Purpose

Chi Epsilon is organized exclusively for academic and charitable purposes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code. Our academic and charitable purposes include activities that provide co-curricular educational activities and providing scholarships and other awards.

### Section 2.02 Vision

By recognizing outstanding students and graduates for their scholarship, character, practicality and sociability, Chi Epsilon seeks to foster excellence, connectivity and engagement among those in the civil engineering community to improve our world.

### Section 2.03 Mission

The mission of Chi Epsilon is to achieve its vision through its four pillars:

**Scholarship** – recognizing *excellence* and achievement in academic and professional endeavors

**Character** – upholding the integrity and responsibility of the civil engineering profession through our service

**Practicality** – educating and encouraging our members to improve our world through innovative and impactful solutions

**Sociability** – *connecting* our members while *engaging* the broader engineering community

## **Article III. Organization and Membership**

### **Section 3.01 Organization**

Chi Epsilon shall consist of a National Council and of such chapters as have been or shall be regularly established in engineering schools and colleges, and of such alumni chapters as have been or shall be regularly established.

### **Section 3.02 Basis for Membership**

The selection of members shall be based upon Scholarship, Character, Practicality, and Sociability - the four primary requirements of a successful engineer.

### **Section 3.03 Chapter Membership**

Membership shall be chosen from within the civil engineering community. Undergraduate members shall be chosen from among students who have completed at least one-half of the work required for their bachelor's degree.

### **Section 3.04 Chapter Honor Membership**

Chapter Honor Membership shall be in recognition of outstanding professional accomplishment in the field of civil engineering.

### **Section 3.05 National Honor Membership**

Election to National Honor Membership shall be in recognition of outstanding professional accomplishment in the field of civil engineering and preeminent contribution to the vision and mission of Chi Epsilon by any of its duly initiated members. No more than two members per biennium shall be elevated to National Honor Member.

## Article IV. Government

### Section 4.01 Government of the National Society

- 1) The government of Chi Epsilon shall be vested in a duly authorized National Conclave and a duly elected National Council.
- 2) The National Conclave shall consist of the National Council, and an official delegation consisting of one active undergraduate or graduate member elected from each active chapter in good standing with the Society. Each official delegate attending the conclave and each member of the National Council shall have one vote.
- 3) The National Council shall be composed of members of Chi Epsilon, none of whom shall be an undergraduate member, with the number established by the Conclave.
- 4) The United States of America shall be divided into districts composed of geographically grouped chapters, with one member of the National Council selected as councillor from each district.
- 5) A District Councillor for a specific district shall be elected by a two-thirds vote of the delegates from that district at a conclave. In the event a two-thirds vote cannot be obtained, the conclave shall elect the councillor by a majority vote.
- 6) A conclave may elect other councillors from time to time.
- 7) The president and vice president shall be elected from members of the National Council by the National Conclave. The remaining national officers shall be selected in accordance with the Bylaws.
- 8) The National Conclave shall transact all business pertaining to Chi Epsilon except such as may be otherwise delegated. It shall have the authority to levy assessments on the chapters and members for its own support and that of the National Council.
- 9) Between conclaves, the National Council shall have the power to conduct the business of Chi Epsilon and to interpret the Constitution and Bylaws.
- 10) The National Council may designate up to four of its members as an Executive Committee to plan conclaves and make other recommendations to the National

Council between council meetings.

## **Section 4.02      Government of the Local Chapters**

- 1) Each chapter shall have full control of its individual affairs, subject to the Constitution and Bylaws of Chi Epsilon.
- 2) The officers of the local chapters shall be elected from the active members of those chapters.
- 3) Each chapter shall have a Faculty Advisor, who shall be elected by the chapter. Faculty Advisors must be members of Chi Epsilon.
- 4) New initiates will be selected and elected by the chapter, subject to the Constitution and Bylaws of Chi Epsilon.

## **Article V. Meetings**

### **Section 5.01      Conclave**

A National Conclave may be called by the National Council. Active chapters may petition the National Council for a National Conclave.

### **Section 5.02      National Conclaves and Chapter Meetings**

National Conclaves and chapter meetings shall be held periodically for the purpose of transacting Chi Epsilon business.



## **Article VI. Dissolution**

In the event of dissolution, the residual assets of the organization will be turned over to one or more organizations which themselves are exempt as organizations described in sections 501(c)(3) and 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or corresponding sections of any prior or future law or to the Federal, State, or Local government for exclusive public purpose.

## **Article VII. Methods of Amending**

This Constitution may be amended by a three-quarters vote of the official delegates and members of the National Council present at a National Conclave, followed by the ratification of three-quarters of the active chapters. The chapter ratification vote shall require approval of three-quarters of the total active membership of the chapter.

## APPENDIX A

### REVISION HISTORY

Dec 28, 2012

Reformat Constitution and Bylaws for WORD format, eliminate unnecessary spaces and tabs, and fix paragraph numbering and indent system.

April 1, 2016

Separate Constitution and Bylaws into two distinct documents

Remove all history, tables and lists from body of Constitution

May 13, 2016

Modify wording in Preamble to reflect modifications as directed by 2016 Conclave Committee 2

Revise Constitution Article II

- Revise Section 1 to include new 'Vision' statement
- Add Section 2 to reflect required IRC 501(c)(3) language to define purpose per instructions from IRS Agent Ed Schlaack dated 4/26/2016
- Add Section 3 to reflect the pillar-based mission of Society as directed by 2016 Conclave Committee 1

Modify wording in Constitution Article III, Section 3 to reflect modifications as directed by 2016 Conclave Committee 2

June 11, 2016

Reformatted Article and Section Titles, created automatic Table of Contents and reformatted numbering system

September 26, 2016

Change "object and purpose" reference in NHM requirements to "vision and mission" to match new statements



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*Please stop by and visit the National Office whenever you are in town!*