

# Bylaws for Chapter 20 of the Escapees Social Network

## ARTICLE I: NAME, LOCATION, RECORDS

- Section 1.** The name of Chapter 20 is Mid-Atlantic of the Escapees Social Network
- Section 2.** The general geographic area is loosely defined as Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia.
- Section 3.** The chapter records shall be kept in triplicate, with one copy in the possession of the secretary, one in the possession of the president, and one copy sent to the national headquarters of the Escapees Club.

## ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

This chapter was organized in May 1987 for the purpose of providing a framework for the members of the Escapees Club to make new friends through organized rallies and other announced social activities.

## ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Membership in this chapter is open to all current members of the Escapees Club.

## ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS AND DUTIES

- Section 1.** The elected officers of this chapter shall be a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer. The officers shall constitute the executive board.
- Section 2.** The term of office for each elected office shall be two (2) years. However, each officer shall serve until replaced. Terms will be staggered. Officers may serve more than one term.
- Section 3.** In the event the chapter is unable to fill the position of vice president, it shall not constitute a violation of these bylaws.
- Section 4.** Duties of the officers are described in the Chapter/Officer Handbook from National Headquarters.

## ARTICLE V: MEETINGS

- Section 1.** Conducting the business of this chapter shall be in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order when such rules are not in conflict with the bylaws and specific directives from the Escapees Club.
- Section 2.** A quorum of ten members, including one elected officer, shall be required for the conduction of the business of the chapter meetings. A majority vote of members present is required.
- Section 3.** A meeting shall be held at each rally where a quorum is present. A minimum of one rally a year must be held. All members shall be notified in writing as to date, place and time of all meetings. Such notification requirement will be satisfied by any mailing at least 30 days prior to the event, including, but not limited to, the chapter letter and/or *Escapees Magazine*.
- Section 4.** Executive board meetings shall be held at the call of the president, or at the request of any other two elected officers.
- Section 5.** Accurate minutes must be kept of business conducted at all meetings. Minutes will be the only legal record of all meetings. Votes at all meetings will be recorded, and at the board meetings votes are to be recorded by name.

## **ARTICLE VI: ELECTIONS**

- Section 1.** The officers shall be elected at the meeting held at the SUMMER RALLY.
- Section 2.** Nominations: A nominating committee shall be appointed at least one (1) month prior to the month of the election. The nominating committee shall obtain at least one nominee for each office. Other members may mail in nominations for any office. All nominees must give written consent to be considered.  
Exception: Additional nominations, with verbal consent, may be taken from the floor of a regular meeting. All nominations shall be published in the last chapter letter prior to the election meeting.
- Section 3.** Voting shall be by ballot. A majority of votes cast is required to elect each office.
- Section 4.** The new officers will assume their respective offices at the SUMMER RALLY.

## **ARTICLE VII: DUES**

The dues will be no more than \$15.00 annually, and will be due January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Any member whose dues are not paid by the SPRING rally shall be dropped from the chapter rolls. The amount of dues shall be set forth in the standing rules.

## **ARTICLE VIII: EMERGENCY ACTION**

In the event that any required action cannot be completed as set forth in these bylaws, the executive board may take emergency action for the benefit of the chapter, which emergency action must be submitted to the membership for ratification by ballot.

## **ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS**

These bylaws may be amended or revised only after written approval of the Escapees Club. All members must be notified of proposed amendments and furnished with a ballot to be returned. Approval of two-thirds of the ballots received is required for an amendment to carry.

## **ARTICLE X: STANDING RULES**

The chapter may adopt a set of standing rules to cover activities and/or situations not specified in the bylaws. These standing rules may not be in conflict with, or supersede the bylaws. These standing rules may be adopted, amended, revised or repealed at any publicized meeting upon approval of two-thirds of the members present.

## **ARTICLE XI: INDEMNIFICATION**

Each officer and committee member, while serving as such, shall be indemnified against any and all claims and liabilities to which he or she may be subjected because of service, or by reason of any act or omission alleged to have been committed by such officer or committee member, unless such act is the result of a willful or grossly negligent act or omission on the part of said officer or committee member.

## **ARTICLE XII: FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY**

Any officer, rally host, committee member, member or guest who is handling any type of funds for the chapter shall keep an accurate account of such funds, including receipts and disbursements, and shall turnover said funds, with written balance accounting, to the treasurer in an expeditious manner.

## **ARTICLE XIII: DISSOLUTION**

In the event of the dissolution of this chapter, all obligations shall be paid and any remaining assets shall be sent to the Escapees Club. Escapees, Inc. shall not be liable for any debts incurred by the chapter.