

# Seattle Men in Leather By-Laws

## ARTICLE I *Name*

The name of this fellowship shall be "Seattle Men in Leather" and hereinafter, referred to as SML.

## ARTICLE II *Purpose*

A men's social group, promoting with power and pride the Seattle Gay Men's Leather Community.

## ARTICLE III *Membership*

### Section A: *Definition of Membership*

Membership in SML shall be open to all men who understand and support the statement of purpose.

### Section B: *Membership Dues*

Payment of dues is required for membership. The amount, terms and method shall be at the discretion of the Steering Committee.

## ARTICLE IV *Authority of Members*

Although the ultimate decision making of SML is lodged in the Steering Committee, the advice, opinion, and preference of the full membership will be sought and followed by the Steering Committee to the greatest extent possible. To this end, membership meeting shall be held at least bi-monthly. At said meetings, all ongoing and proposed activities of SML will be fully discussed and voted upon by the membership when and where appropriate. The Steering Committee shall be bound by the resolutions duly passed by majority vote.

## ARTICLE V *Meeting of Members*

### Section A: *Annual Meetings*

There shall be an annual meeting of the membership during the month of March each year at a location set by the Steering Committee.

### Section B: *Other Meetings*

Membership meetings shall be held at least bi-monthly.

### Section C: *Notice of Meetings*

Notice of all meetings of the membership shall be published in the SML newsletter or by notice mailed to all members at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting.

## ARTICLE VI *Steering Committee*

### Section A: *Steering Committee*

A Steering Committee of five (5) members and four (4) officers shall be elected by ballot each March by the members in good standing.

### Section B: *Term of Office*

The term of office of elected Steering Committee members shall be one (1) year.

### Section C: *Vacancies*

1. A vacancy shall occur on the Steering Committee in the following events:
  - a) Resignation or death of a Steering Committee member.
  - b) If a Steering Committee member misses three (3) consecutive meetings without an excuse satisfactory to the Steering Committee, that Committee member's chair may be considered vacant by vote of the Steering Committee.
  - c) Any Steering Committee member may be removed by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the membership called for that purpose.
2. Vacancies on the Steering Committee shall be filled by appointment by a majority vote of the Steering Committee, and such appointee (s) shall hold office until a successor (s) is elected at the next annual meeting.

### Section D: *Regular Monthly Meetings*

Regular monthly meetings of the Steering Committee will be held at such time and place as the Steering Committee shall direct.

### Section E: *Open Meeting Policy*

All meetings of the Steering Committee shall be open to the membership at large.

### Section F: *Quorum*

A majority of the Steering Committee members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

### Section G: *Powers and Duties*

1. The Steering Committee shall be empowered to conduct all business of SML, subject to these by-laws and as best
2. realizes the statement of purpose.
2. The Steering Committee shall have the power to establish rules, regulations and/or procedures consistent with these by-laws to govern SML.
3. The Steering Committee shall have the power to appoint, remove or approve of all committees.
4. The Steering Committee shall provide guidelines and directives to govern custody, and disbursement of SML funds and other property as provided in these by-laws.
5. The Steering Committee shall approve the annual budget of SML.

### Section H: *Fiscal Year*

The fiscal year of SML shall begin January 1 of each calendar year and end December 31 of the same year.

ARTICLE VII *Officers*

Section A: *Officers*

The officers of SML shall be President, Secretary, and Treasurer, and Membership Coordinator. They shall serve as and be considered voting members of the Steering Committee. No one person may hold more than one office simultaneously.

Section B: *Term of Office*

The officers shall be elected by ballot by the general membership each March, and shall hold office for one (1) year. No member may serve for more than two (2) elected consecutive terms in the same office.

Section C: *Duties of the President*

1. The President shall perform all ordinary duties of that office, including presiding over all meeting of the members and Steering Committee.
2. The President or his designee shall have sole authority to speak on behalf of SML subject to guidelines established by the Steering Committee.

Section D: *Duties of the Secretary*

1. The Secretary shall perform all ordinary duties of that office, including keeping minutes of all meetings, writing and/or delegating the writing of all routine correspondence, and maintaining records of all official SML business.
2. The Secretary is responsible for maintaining the roster and mailing list of SML.

Section E: *Duties of the Treasurer*

1. The Treasurer shall perform all ordinary duties of that office, including the keeping of books of accounts, and the maintenance of all records pertaining to income and expenditures. The Treasurer shall be required to submit a written report and expenses by time, and a list of outstanding debts and revenues, to the Steering Committee each month.
2. The Treasurer shall collect and disburse all funds of SML.

Section F: *Duties of the Membership Coordinator*

1. The Membership Coordinator is responsible for maintaining the membership roster and mailing list of SML.
2. The Membership Coordinator shall send out renewal notices and other membership materials as set forth by the Steering Committee.
3. The SML Membership Roster and other such documents are the exclusive property of SML.

Section G: *Vacancies*

1. In the event of a vacancy in the office of President, the Secretary shall become acting President until such time as the Steering Committee appoints a new President.
2. In the event of a vacancy in the office of President, Secretary or the Treasurer, the vacancy will be filled by appointment by the Steering Committee for the remainder of the vacancy.

Section H: *Removal*

Any officer may be removed by three-fourths (3/4) majority of the membership at any special meeting called for that purpose.

ARTICLE VIII *Committees*

The Steering Committee shall have the power to designate such committee as it deems necessary from time to time.

ARTICLE IX *Parliamentary Authority*

The most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern all meetings of SML and of the Steering Committee in all matters not otherwise covered in these by-laws.

ARTICLE X *Amendments*

The by-laws of SML may be amended by a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote of the full membership at any meeting provided that notice setting forth the proposed changes is given thirty (30) days in advance.

The following procedure shall be used to amend these By-Laws:

1. The Steering Committee shall announce proposed changes of the By-laws to the general membership and hold a meeting. The Steering Committee shall provide written notice to the membership of the meeting at least thirty (30) days in advance of such meeting.
2. Along with the notice of the meeting, the Steering Committee will also provide the proposed language changes.
3. The general membership will respond to the proposed changes by ballot or by similar means. Ballots may be returned at the meeting, mailed to the organization, or by means as set forth by the Steering Committee.
4. At least 50% of the membership at the time of the notice of the meeting must respond in order to validate the election of the proposed language.
5. At least 65% of the membership response as defined above must be in favor of the proposed language changes before such changes are made to the By-laws.

ARTICLE XI *Dissolution*

In the event of decision to dissolve SML, the assets of SML shall be liquidated and the remaining proceeds shall be distributed to such charitable organizations designated by the Steering Committee.