

APPROVED BYLAWS OF THE

RUSTY GORDON LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER & ALLY DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS OF PALM BEACH

A CHARTERED CHAPTER OF THE FLORIDA LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER and ALLY DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Rusty Gordon Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender & Ally Democratic Caucus of Palm Beach, united in a common purpose, in order to strengthen and further the ideals and principles of the Democratic Party, which recognizes and promotes diversity, good will, and respect for all members of the community, do hereby adopt and uphold these bylaws.

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of this Chapter shall be Rusty Gordon Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender and Ally Democratic Caucus of Palm Beach (hereinafter referred to as "Chapter"), a Chartered Chapter of the Florida Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Ally (LGBTQA) Democratic Caucus (hereinafter referred to as "Caucus"), affiliated with the Palm Beach County Democratic Executive Committee (PBDEC) and Florida Democratic Party. Rusty Gordon was a pioneer in the women's and LGBT movements. Rusty was listed as one of the outstanding women in the book "Feminists who Changed America" by Barbara J Love in 2007. In 1967, she founded the Whimsy Political Clearinghouse in South Florida, with a focus on women's studies and LGBT issues. She was well known in NOW circles in South Florida and nationally. Rusty help found the Florida GLBT Democratic Caucus. Rusty died at her home in Palm Beach County on October 27, 2009.

ARTICLE II

OBJECTIVE

Section 1. Objective

The object of this Chapter shall be:

- To stimulate active interest in political and governmental affairs;
- To promote the candidacy of Democrats specifically committed to the principle that no natural person shall be deprived of equal rights based on sexual orientation or gender identity and expression;
- To encourage the passage of legislation securing such rights;
- To strengthen and to further the ideals and principles of the Democratic Party;
- To provide reasonable and ongoing financial support to the Chapter;
- To promote participation among Democrats;
- To support and elect the duly selected nominees of the Democratic Party in national, state, and local campaigns;
- To foster good fellowship among Democrats; and

- To encourage voter registration and advocate issues without discrimination on grounds of real or perceived race, color, creed, sex, age, national origin, disability, gender identity and expression, or sexual orientation.

Section 2. Mission

Further, it shall be the mission of this Chapter to foster good will between gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and allied members of the Democratic Party and the community at large. We seek to continue working with other GLBT and like-minded chapters united with a common purpose. We seek individual freedom in the framework of a just society and political freedom in the framework of meaningful participation by all citizens.

Section 3. Endorsements

In all state-wide primaries, elections, or runoffs, whether partisan or non-partisan, where more than one Democrat is running for the same public office, the Chapter shall be bound by the Caucus's endorsement or non-endorsement action. In all other primaries, elections, or runoffs, whether partisan or non-partisan, where more than one Democrat is running for the same public office, within the geographic area of the Chapter, the Chapter may endorse (defined as endorsing, certifying, screening, or recommending, in any manner), and support a candidate. No such endorsement shall be made prior to the close of the period of candidate qualifying. To be endorsed, a candidate for a given office shall be recommended by a simple majority vote of the Steering Committee. Such endorsement action shall then be confirmed by a simple majority vote of those present and voting at a general membership special or regular meeting. At no time will this Chapter support any non-Democrat against a Democrat in any election, including judicial and/or non-partisan elections.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP AND AFFILIATION

Section 1. Eligibility for Membership

Democrats registered to vote in Palm Beach County, Florida interested in the objectives of this Chapter shall be eligible for membership. No other residency restriction may be placed upon membership or the privileges of membership in this Chapter. In accordance with Article VI of the Florida Democratic Party Bylaws, with the exception of the inaugural meeting of this Chapter, those members permitted to vote in any club election for officers or board members must have been a member of the Chapter at least forty-five (45) days prior to the date of such election. Officers and directors shall be required to execute the Loyalty Oath in the form included in the bylaws of the Florida Democratic Party.

Section 2. Associate Members

A person who subscribes to the purpose and mission of the Chapter who:

- Is not a Palm Beach County, Florida resident, or
- Is not eligible to register to vote in Florida

shall be an Associate Member and may speak at meetings and assist on committees, but may not vote.

Section 3. Dues

The Chapter shall determine the annual dues of each category of membership or affiliation. Dues are payable upon joining and, thereafter, on or before January 1st of each year. The Membership Committee will notify members two months in arrears; those renewing members whose dues are not paid within 30 days thereafter shall be automatically placed in inactive status and shall not be considered members. The voting privileges of those members in arrears will be suspended until dues are paid. Payment of dues shall entitle anyone who subscribes to the purpose and mission of the Chapter to membership as either a member or a friend.

Section 4. Resignation from Membership

Members desiring to resign from the Chapter shall submit their resignation in writing to the Secretary and President.

ARTICLE IV

RE-CERTIFICATION

Section 1. Charter Re-certification

In July of every odd numbered year, or at such time as otherwise required by the Caucus, the Chapter shall apply to the Membership and Chartering Committee of the Caucus for charter re-certification. Failure to do so shall result in the forfeiture of all rights and privileges of the use of the word Democrat, Democratic, or derivative thereof.

ARTICLE V

OFFICERS

Section 1.

The officers of this Chapter shall be President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The President may appoint an Historian, a Parliamentarian, and a Sergeant-at-Arms as ex officio, non-voting officers. All officers are required to be current dues-paying Chapter members. All officers shall perform the duties prescribed in Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, the parliamentary authority for the Chapter, as modified and amplified by these bylaws.

Section 2.

All terms of office shall be for two years. Officers shall be eligible for no more than four consecutive terms in the same office.

Section 3.

No member shall hold more than one elected office at a time.

Section 4.

Elections will be held in February of odd-numbered years. A 14-day notice will be given before that regular meeting.

Section 5.

The Nominating Committee shall consist of three (3) members appointed by the President, and the committee will establish the election guidelines. Prior to the biennial meeting, the Nominating Committee shall prepare one ballot for each office, with the names of the duly qualified candidates. Each ballot will be printed with the name

of the Chapter on the top, followed by the position to be voted upon, with the candidates' names printed on the ballot. There will be a blank line or lines provided for each office, for additional nominations from the floor. The Nominating Committee shall preside over and conduct the election process, including verifying all voting members are eligible per Article III Section 1.

Section 6. Election Process

Election shall be by secret ballot. Elections may be by acclamation, if only one nominee is presented. All ballots shall be kept by the Secretary of the Chapter for a period of thirty days following the date of the election and shall be available for review by any member. After this, the ballots shall be retained for a period of three years, after which time they may be destroyed.

ARTICLE VI

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1.

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Chapter; shall be an ex officio member of all committees except the nominating committee; shall appoint all the Standing and Special Committees and their chairs; shall represent the Chapter at county, district and state functions; shall give guidance to the chair of each committee; and shall perform all duties pertaining to the office of the President.

Section 2.

The Vice President shall render all possible assistance to the President in matters pertaining to the Chapter and shall assume the office in the absence of, or inability of, the President to serve.

Section 3.

The Secretary shall keep an accurate record of all meetings of the Chapter and Steering Committee; shall maintain a current list of members with addresses, phone numbers, email addresses and precinct numbers; and shall have a copy of the Chapter Bylaws with any amendments properly recorded.

Section 4.

The Treasurer shall receive all monies of the Chapter; shall keep an accurate record of receipts and expenditures; shall present a statement of all income and all expenditures at each meeting occurring since the previous meeting of the Chapter, and at other times when requested by the Steering Committee; and shall pay out funds only as authorized by the Steering Committee. Books of the Treasurer shall be audited by the Audit Committee at the end of each calendar year.

The Chapter may use online banking. Procedures will be established in order to safeguard Chapter assets.

Section 5.

Officers are required to attend all general membership meetings. Officers are required to notify the President of any upcoming absence from a meeting in order to prevent a possible removal from office due to too many absences or too many unexcused absences..

Section 6.

The creation of additional officers shall be undertaken in the Bylaws at the time when they are adopted or amended as necessary.

ARTICLE VII

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Section 1.

Regular meetings of the Chapter shall be held monthly, on the 3rd Tuesday of the month unless otherwise ordered by the Chapter.

Section 2.

Special general membership meetings may be called by the President, with one week's notice to the members. The purpose of the meeting shall be stated in the notice.

Section 3.

Twenty percent (20%) of the total membership shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any regular or special meeting. A majority vote of those members in attendance is necessary to carry motions.

Section 4.

All meetings shall be in a facility accessible to the physically disabled.

ARTICLE VIII

VACANCIES AND REMOVAL

Section 1. Vacancy of President

If a vacancy occurs in the office of President, the Vice President shall become President.

Section 2. Other Officer Vacancies

Other vacancies shall be filled, on an interim basis, by appointment of the President, until the next regular meeting of the Chapter. A 14-day notice will be given before that regular meeting, at which time the position will be filled for the remainder of the term by nominations from the floor. Election shall be by secret ballot. Elections may be by acclamation, if only one nominee is presented for the vacancy. All ballots shall be kept by the Secretary of the Chapter for a period of thirty days following the date of the election and shall be available for review by any member. All ballots shall, thereafter, be transmitted to the Caucus which may hold such ballots for a period of three years, after which time they may be destroyed.

Section 3. Removal

Any officer may be removed upon a two-thirds vote of the members at any regular or special general membership meeting after at least ten days' notice to the membership that a motion for the purpose of removal of such officer will be considered at such regular or special meeting. The removal may be for cause, including, but not limited to, malfeasance, misfeasance, neglect of duty, abandonment of office, incompetence, permanent inability to perform official duties, and conviction of a felony.

ARTICLE IX

COMMITTEES

Section 1.

The standing committees shall be Finance/ Fundraising, Bylaws, Political Action/Campaign, Membership, Publicity, Audit and Ad Hoc (when the President deems necessary) and shall be appointed by the president promptly after each annual meeting or as necessary. All chairs, including ad hoc, shall be dues-paying members or Friends of the Chapter and will continue to renew during the tenure of their services as chairs of their respective committees.

Section 2.

Committee Responsibilities

1. The Finance/Fundraising Committee shall assist the Treasurer in preparing the annual budget and maintaining the financial records of the Chapter. This committee is also responsible for raising funds to support Chapter activities.
2. The Political Action/Campaign Committee shall work toward the election of Democratic nominees who support the goals of this Chapter for the area covered by the Chapter, including county, state, and national candidates.
3. The Membership Committee shall verify that all persons applying for membership are, in fact, registered Democrats and shall also organize and assist with membership campaigns.
4. The Publicity Committee shall see that all activities, including meetings, are advertised through the media. It is also responsible for maintaining the Chapter website.

ARTICLE X

ACCOUNTABILITY

Section 1.

Dissolution: In the event this Chapter wishes to dissolve, a resolution stating the date of dissolution and the reasons for same shall be adopted by a majority vote of the Chapter after being submitted in writing at the previous meeting. When the Chapter disbands for any reason, the Chapter's assets and funds, after all debts are satisfied, shall become the property of the Caucus.

Section 2.

Grievances: Chapter disputes and grievances shall be resolved with the Caucus.

ARTICLE XI

PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the Chapter in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws, any special rules

of order the Chapter may adopt, the rules of the Caucus, Florida Democratic Party and National Democratic Party.

ARTICLE XII

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION PROVISION

The Chapter hereby adopts and shall enforce the following anti-discrimination provisions:

Section 1.

No Democratic Loyalty Oath shall be used which has the effect of requiring members of the Democratic Party to condone or support discrimination on the grounds of race, color, creed, sex, age, religion, economic status, ethnic identity, national origin, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity and expression.

Section 2.

The time and place for all public meetings of the Chapter shall be publicized fully in such a manner as to assure timely notice to all interested persons, and shall be open to all members of the Democratic Party regardless of race, color, creed, sex, age, religion, economic status, ethnic identity, national origin, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity and expression.

Section 3.

In order to fully and adequately inform prospective and current members of a full description of the legal, practical and pertinent procedures for selection of all Democratic Caucus Chapter representatives and officers, the Chapter should publicize fully, and in such a manner, as to assure notice to all interested Democrats in time to have adequate opportunity to participate.

ARTICLE XIII

AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

The bylaws may be amended by a majority vote at a regular meeting pursuant to notification in writing one week prior to the meeting. Bylaws and any changes or amendments are subject to approval of the Florida Democratic Party Committee on Clubs, Organizations, and Caucuses together with copies of the minutes of the meeting at which these amendments were adopted.

Revised: July 21, 2015

April, 2019: Removed "physcial" from "physical disability" in sections 1 and 2 of Article XII – Anti-Discrimination Provision; as well as Article II, Section 1, 9th bullet point.