



## **Knights of Lithuania (K of L)**

### ***Council 7***

85 Green Street  
Waterbury CT 06708

### **Article 1. Name**

The name of the Organization is the Knights of Lithuania (also known as the K of L), Council 7 located in Waterbury, Connecticut.

### **Article II. Purpose**

The overall mission of the Council 7 Knights of Lithuania is to support the National organization by promoting and supporting the following objectives:

1. Adhere to Knights of Lithuania philosophy and precepts, furthering among its members a deeper understanding and practice of the organization's principals and morals.
2. The K of L urges its members to participate in public affairs at all levels and to exercise their rights of American citizenship at election time, if applicable. Likewise, it fosters growth in Lithuanian ethnic community awareness and encourages active participation in Lithuanian community affairs.
3. The K of L endeavors to instill in its members acknowledge, appreciation, and love of the Lithuanian language, customs and culture.

### **Article III. Membership**

1. Members shall meet requirements as set forth in the National Constitution.
2. Organization members are Honorary, Regular, Associate, Auxiliary and Junior. Auxiliary members may be non-Lithuanians and/or non-Catholics who accept and further the founding principles of the K of L organization.
3. Annual dues are established at the National level. Council dues may be assessed as needed.
4. Members are required to pay dues by January 31<sup>st</sup> annually or be removed from the active membership list.
5. Members of a religious order taking a vow of poverty and members of the Armed Forces are exempt from dues.

### **Article IV. Meetings**

1. The Board of Directors meeting shall be called prior to the regular monthly meeting, or at the discretion of the President. The Board shall consist of the Officers, Spiritual Advisor, Trustees, and designated members chosen from the membership.
  - a. A Board of Directors member is expected to attend all monthly meetings.
  - b. A question left to the decision of the Directors can be decided only if 2/3<sup>rd</sup>s of the Board members are present to constitute a quorum.
2. The regular monthly meeting shall be held on the third Sunday of each month, starting at 11:00 am; the Council shall conduct only one (1) meeting during the months of January and February. Ten (10) members in good standing must be present to constitute a legal meeting. Attendance by 15 members in good standing shall constitute a quorum for a special meeting. All members shall be notified of any special meeting.
3. No member shall be interrupted while speaking except to call that member to order.
  - a. If a member while speaking be called to order, he/she shall at the request of the chairman take their seat until the question of order is determined. If permitted, they will be allowed to resume.
  - b. Members are requested to confine their remarks to the matter or question under consideration.

### **Article VI. Duties and Privileges**

1. Members are to observe the feast of St. Casimir.
2. Activity and participation in all Lithuanian organizations is strongly urged.

3. Upon occasion a member in good standing may bring a guest or guests into the club. Members shall be fully responsible for their guests.
4. Members shall pay for all functions. No exceptions are to be made.
5. All Officers pay dues except the President.
6. Any member not abiding by Council Bylaws or doing deliberate acts that are not in the best interest of this Council shall be brought before the Board of Directors and dealt with accordingly.

## **Article VII. Duties of Officers**

### ***President***

1. Conduct all Council meetings.
2. Cast deciding ballot in case of a tie.
3. See the Officers perform their duties; otherwise bring such violations to the attention of the Board of Directors.
4. Call special meetings with the approval of the Board of Directors.
5. In the absence of the spiritual advisor, administer the oath of membership.
6. Chairman ex officio of all committees.
7. Signs all official club documents and minutes.
8. The Custodian of the official seal and affixing it to required documents.

### ***Vice President***

1. Assist President in conducting all Council affairs.
2. Conduct meetings in the absence of the President.
3. Assume duties of President in case of resignation or death. In such a case, a new Vice President shall be elected.
4. Aid President in maintaining order at meetings.

### ***Recording Secretary***

1. Read and record minutes of regular monthly and special meetings.
2. Carry on all Council correspondence.
3. Notify members of any special meetings.
4. Count votes as necessary

### ***Financial Secretary***

1. Receive entry fee for prospective members.
2. See that each candidate receives a copy of the Constitution and the Council 7 Bylaws in time for perusal before taking the oath of membership.
3. Receive and record member dues.
4. Maintain a record of member names and contact information (e.g. email/postal addresses, phone).
5. Notify the Supreme Council of change of addresses and deaths.
6. With assistance from the President, remove any person who is in violation of Council Bylaws.
7. Maintains the Sunshine Fund and processes tickets for the district raffle.
8. Sends condolences to deceased member's family; this task may be delegated to another Officer if needed.

### ***Treasurer***

1. Receive monies from Financial Secretary, Houseperson and various other committees.

2. Keep an account of all income and expenditures.
3. Pay all running expenses of the Council.

### ***Trustees***

1. Perform audit of Treasurer's books annually or as needed.
2. Audit the Financial Secretary's records annually or as needed.
3. Trustees are elected by the membership.

## **Article VIII. Elections**

1. In September a Nominating Committee will be formed. The Committee will have a minimum of three (3) to a maximum of five (5) members. They will present a slate of candidates at the October meeting for all offices. The committee formed will serve for a three (3) year period. Nominations from the floor can also be made at that time.
2. Officer election and installations shall be held during the regular October meeting.
3. Voting will be done by a show of hands or secret ballot. If a secret ballot is required, a member of the Nominating Committee and the current Recording Secretary will be required to count the ballots, with the results being presented by the Chairman.
4. All Officers shall be elected to serve for a period of three (3) years from the date of the election. In the case of resignation or death, the open position is to be filled by a candidate(s) to be presented by the Nominating Committee and elected by the membership at the next possible meeting. If there are no candidates for an office, the present Officer may run for another term or remain in the position at the discretion of the membership.

## **Article IX. Liability**

The Council shall maintain a liability policy of a value sufficient to protect its members from being individually sued in case of a legal claim resulting from the operation of the Council.

**Council Officer Oath**

In the name of God, St. Casimir, and all the other Saints and in the presence of the participants of the Council 7 members. I, formally vow as an officer of the Knights of Lithuania Council 7 to faithfully uphold the Knights of Lithuania Constitution, to lead the organization in keeping with the principles of our Catholic faith and our Lithuanian ancestry, and to foster among the Knights of Lithuania members strength of the body and soul and a firm commitment to their American citizenship. God help me in these goals.

**Admission of New Members**

When a new member has become familiar with the Constitution of the organization, and having been accepted by the Council, he/she takes a solemn oath, administered at a Council meeting by the Spiritual Advisor or the President, according to established ritual.

*The Oath*

I (name), having read and studied the constitution of the Knights of Lithuania, willingly join this organization, and pledge myself to be faithful to and abide by its rules. I also pledge ever and everywhere, to courageously uphold my religion, the Constitution of United States of America, and the needs of my Lithuanian people.