

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE SUPREME GUARDIAN COUNCIL  
Year: 2018

AMENDMENT: No. 6

Page: SOP-SGC-12

Article Majority Members Section 1 and 3 Subsection \_\_\_\_\_

**NOW READS:**

**SOP-SGC-12 MAJORITY MEMBERS**

1. Each member in good standing shall become a Majority Member upon becoming twenty (20) years of age, or married under that age, and shall immediately receive gratis a certificate of Majority Membership, Form 162 at the end of the term if she becomes twenty (20) or immediately if marrying prior to the age of twenty (20).
  
3. She shall be entitled to all the right and privileges of a member except voting and holding office.
  - (a) If she turns twenty (20) she shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges through the end of the term.
  - (b) If she marries she shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges of a member except voting and holding office.

**DELETE**

**ADD NEW TO READ**

**AMEND TO READ (Underline all changes or additions)**

**Will READ:**

**SOP-SGC-12 MAJORITY MEMBERS**

1. Each member in good standing shall become a Majority Member upon becoming twenty (20) years of age, or married or pregnant under that age, and shall immediately receive gratis a certificate of Majority Membership, Form 162 at the end of the term she becomes twenty (20) or immediately if marrying or becoming pregnant prior to the age of twenty (20).
  
3. She shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges of a member except voting and holding office.
  - (a) If she turns twenty (20) she shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges through the end of the term.
  - (b) If she marries she shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges of a member except voting and holding office.
  - (c) If she becomes pregnant, she shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges of a member except voting and holding office.

**REASON FOR CHANGE:** Adds members who become pregnant to receive immediate majority. To align with membership eligibility criteria that state: "A woman under the age of twenty (20) years who has been married, divorced, whose marriage has been annulled or who is pregnant, or has ever been pregnant, except in the case of rape (or its equivalent terminology) or incest, is not

eligible for membership" (C-Bethel-1-Article IV-Section 1(c) and SOP-Bethel-12-Section 2(c)). This would coincide with removal of SOP-Bethel-3-Section 3(d)(2) which states: "A Daughter who marries or becomes pregnant while holding a Bethel office shall immediately resign from such office. Failure to do so shall be cause for expulsion from the Order." As the law currently implies, this leaves the member in limbo until she reaches the age of twenty (20) years if she becomes pregnant. This does not honor the member with dignity but shames or outcasts her from a support system she may need after learning she is pregnant.

There is not a consistent manner in which Bethels handle cases of members becoming pregnant, and offering immediate majority gives her the opportunity to continue to serve and participate with her Bethel, regardless of what decision she chooses concerning her pregnancy (which is not the authority or business of the Bethel Guardian Council to police or manage).

On 3/19/18, I proposed this idea on my personal Facebook page and, within 24 hours, the post received 76 likes and loves, and over 80 comments on the topic, including several from active daughters and those who have become pregnant as members and the negative experiences they faced. The discourse was professional and courteous and even those dissenting or questioning this amendment's intent were open to the idea that something has to change in how we engage a member who has become pregnant. Allowing immediate majority removes them from active floor participation (to hold an office and to have a vote, yet they may fill in occasionally and serve as an installing officer), grants them a ceremonial end as a member, and gives them room to contribute to the Bethel in other ways.

Because this law cannot address concerns about becoming a Certified Adult Volunteer under the age of twenty (20), follow-up action could be considered by the Board of Trustees if this amendment passes.

**SUBMITTED BY:**



**Leslie Hoglund, VGG-VA  
(Maker)**



**Melanie Schoonmaker, PGG-VA**



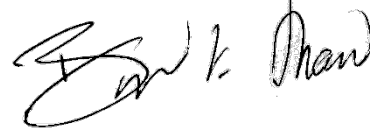
**Amanda LeBlanc, PGG-MN**



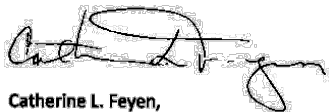
**Kathy Rary, PGG-VA**



**Melanie Strachan, PGG-Australia**



**Bryon K. Mau, PAGG-MD**



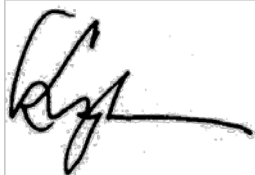
**Catherine L. Feyen,  
Catherine Feyen, PGG-MD**



**Susan "Happy" Estes-Butler, PGG-MD**



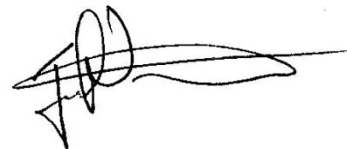
**Jan Harms, PGG-PA**



**Lalaine Magbanua,  
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**Jennifer Nielsen,  
PJJ-Australia**