

Gay-Straight Alliance Constitution

Article I

Name

The name of this organization shall be the Gay-Straight Alliance, (GSA), of Barrington High School.

Article II

Purpose and Goals

The purpose of the GSA is to provide a place for students concerned about any type of gay or lesbian issues to find common ground. It will also provide a jumping off point for heightened awareness and visibility of gay and lesbian issues at BHS.

The goals of the GSA are:

- 1.) To make the BHS community (administration, students, parents, faculty etc.) aware of gay and lesbian issues and how the issues impact the school environment.
- 2.) To provide a support group for students who feel the need for this type of support.
- 3.) To foster an inclusive environment, so that any student, regardless of gender or sexual orientation, will feel support in regards to orientation issues.
- 4.) To organize activities, so that group members can gain an understanding of sexual orientation, discrimination, isolation, self-esteem, physical and emotional safety, healthy relationships, as well as role models from the past and present.
- 5.) To organize activities with other clubs and organizations at BHS so that the goals and purpose of the GSA are communicated to others.

Article III

Membership

- 1.) To be a member of the GSA a student must be committed to the goals and purpose of the club.
- 2.) Members are asked to attend as many meetings as possible, but because of the nature of the club, students can feel free to attend meetings as often as they wish.
- 3.) All club members must respect the rules of the club and also respect the other members of the club. This includes other members right to privacy, as the case may be.
- 4.) Membership will be automatically terminated upon graduation, upon ceasing to be a student at the high school, or upon termination of the club.

Article IV

Meetings

- 1.) The club will meet twice a month, or as often as the members and officers see due.
- 2.) The GSA officers will meet as necessary to discuss the functions and/or concerns of the club.

Article V

Officers

- 1.) The officers of this club shall be: president, vice president, and two student body representatives.
- 2.) The election of officers will be held at the end of the school year, at the last meeting. There must be a majority present in order to hold elections. The term of officers will be one year, unless a shorter term is necessary due to early graduation at the semester, or some other extenuating circumstance. Actions in situations like these will be determined finally by the advisor.

Article VI

Activities and Projects

- 1.) Within the limits prescribed in section 1 of article III, this club shall be responsible for financing and conducting its own activities and shall itself supply the money and man power necessary there to, except in the case of joint projects or activities undertaken in cooperation with other organizations such responsibility shall be shared with such other organization(s).

Article VII

Fees and Dues

- 1.) Any additional fees, dues, or assessments on the membership of the club shall be nominal and shall only be for the purpose of meeting administrative costs of the club. Funds for activities and projects undertaken by the club shall, in general, be raised apart from such fees, dues, or assessments.

Article VIII

Acceptance of Constitution and By-Laws

All members of this club by their acceptance of membership and continuation there of, there by accept the principals of the GSA as expressed in its purpose and goals and

submit themselves to and agree to comply with and be bound by constitution and by-laws of this club. No members shall be absolved from the observance of the constitution and by-laws on the plea that they have not received a copy of them.

Article IX

By-Laws

This club shall adopt the standard GSA by-laws together with such amendments as are not inconsistent with this constitution and which may be deemed necessary or convenient for the governing of the club, provided such amendments are adopted in accordance with the amendment procedure prescribed in the standard GSA by-laws.

Article X

Duration

This GSA shall exist so long as it continues to function in accordance with the provisions of this constitution or until it is terminated by this club upon its own determination and action. Upon termination of this club all rights and privileges relating to the GSA name shall be relinquished by the club and by its members individually and collectively.

Gay-Straight Alliance By-Laws

Article I

Elections

- 1.) Election for the offices of President, Vice President, and both student body representatives shall be held annually prior to the end of school. Those elected shall take the office on the last day of school.
- 2.) Nominations of officers shall be made either in writing or from the floor. Candidates shall be voted on at the regular meeting, or at the discretion of the current officers and the advisor. Voting shall be by secret ballot, or another secret method. Candidates receiving the majority of votes of the members present in good standing shall be elected.

Article II

Duties of officers

- 1.) President- The president shall preside at all the regular and officers' meetings. S/he shall appoint any necessary committees and be responsible for the well-being of the GSA and its members.

2.) Vice President- The vice-president will preside over any meetings which the president is not able to attend. S/he will succeed the president in the event of the removal of the latter for whatever cause.

3.) Student Body Representative- The "SBR" will be in charge of dealing with any social events, community activities, or school wide activities. S/he will basically deal with any interaction between the GSA and the school or another organization. There will be two students elected to this position.

Article III

Meetings

- 1.) Meetings of this club shall be held twice a month, or as the officers see due.
- 2.) A quorum is constituted by a majority of members in good standing. A quorum would be necessary at all elections.

Article IV

Amendments

- 1.) These by-laws may be amended by a majority vote of the members in good standing at any regular meeting of the club at which a quorum is present, provided notice of intention to call such a vote is given at least 14 days earlier at a meeting of the club at which a quorum is present.
- 2.) Nothing in these by laws shall contradict any provision in the club's constitution.