

CONSTITUTION OF THE VILLANOVANS FOR LIFE

This constitution the following dates: 1974; 4/17/75; 4/14/92.

*re-took no
changes 11/4/93*

Preamble (taken from Philosophy)

Article 1. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Active membership may be extended to any student of Villanova University (Membership must be renewed at the beginning of each semester)

Section 2. Active members:

A. Shall have the right to vote on any matter concerning this organization.

B. Shall have the right to hold elective offices, be appointed by the President to serve on committees in the capacity of members, chairpersons, and advisors.

Article 2. ELECTIONS

Section 1. Time

A. Nominations shall be made from the floor at a meeting held in the month of March.

B. Officers of the organization shall be chosen by secret ballot at a meeting to be held not later than the second week in April.

Section 2. Election

A. A majority of the active members (over 50%) must be present for the elections.

B. An officer will be duly elected upon receipt of a plurality vote. In case there are more than two nominees for the same office, the first ballot will be used to narrow the number of candidates to two. A second ballot shall then determine the elected officer.

Section 3. Vacancy

A. Vacancy in any office except that of the President shall be filled within two subsequent meetings by an appointment made by the Executive Committee and ratified by plurality of the active members present.

B. The Vice President shall succeed the President in case of removal or resignation.

Article 3. MEETINGS

Section 1. Quorum.

One third of the active members of this organization shall constitute a quorum which shall be requisite for a regular meeting.

Section 2. Frequency

A regular meeting shall be held at least once every month.

Section 3. Special Meetings

Special meetings shall be called by the President.

Article 4. STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 1. Standing Committees shall be as follows:

- A. Executive Committee
- B. Education Committee
- C. Special Projects Committee

Section 2. Chairpersons.

The President shall be the chairperson of the Executive Committee. The President, with the consent of a majority of over 50% of the Executive Committee shall appoint and dismiss chairpersons of other committees.

Section 3. Membership and organization of each committee shall be at the discretion of the individual chairpersons.

Section 4. Duties of the Standing Committee.

- A. Executive Committee--to formulate a program to be used as a guide in the coming years and to run the organization's day to day affairs.
- B. Education Committee--to execute the instructions of the Executive Committee in regard to the on and off campus education of the general public in pro-life matters, and to run the Speaker Program.
- C. Special Projects Committee--to execute instructions of the executive Committee in regard to special pro-life activities not under the jurisdiction of the Education Committee.

Article 5. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Section 1. Special committees shall be established by request of 2/3 of the active members, or at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

Section 2. Chairpersons shall be appointed by the President with the consent of more than 50% of the Executive Committee.

Article 6. ELECTED OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of this organization shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 2. All active members are eligible for any offices.

Section 3. Duties.

- A. The Duties of the President shall be:
 - to enforce the provisions of this Constitution.
 - to preside at all regular and special meetings.
 - to appoint and dismiss committee chairpersons with the consent of the Executive Committee.
 - to serve as Chairperson of the Executive Committee.
 - to perform other duties according to the office of the President that are to the benefit of the organization.
 - to serve as a representative of this organization at any other meetings at which this organization's attendance is required.
- B. The Duties of the Vice President shall be:
 - to assist the President at all times.

--to serve in the capacity of the President in the event of his absence at any regular or special meeting.

C. The Duties of the Secretary shall be:

--to execute the official correspondence of the organization.

--to record minutes at all regular and special meetings.

--to send out necessary announcements.

B. The Duties of the Treasurer shall be:

--To handle all finances of this organization.

--to report all finances at a regular meeting at least once each semester.

--to keep all books open or the inspection of all elected officers at any time.

Article 7. IMPEACHMENT

Any officer negligent in the execution of his official duties may be impeached according to the provisions in Robert's Rules of Parliamentary Procedure.

Article 8. AMENDMENTS

Procedure for amending the Constitution shall be as follows:

A. Proposed amendments must be submitted in writing at any regular meeting to be acted upon at the next regular meeting.

B. A 3/4 vote of active members present at a regular meeting shall be necessary to pass an amendment.

Article 9. RATIFICATION

Procedure for ratifying the constitution shall be as follows:

A. Proposed Constitution must be submitted in writing at any regular meeting and acted upon at that or at any other time as long as more than 50% of the active members are present.

B. A 3/4 vote of active members present shall be necessary to ratify the Constitution.

C. The implementation of the Constitution shall be immediate upon its ratification assuming the endorsement of the Dean of Student Activities.

VILLANOVANS FOR LIFE AMENDMENTS

Amendment 1

Active membership shall be defined as having attended 1 meeting or having made contact with the President in the Past month.

(approved 4/7/92)

Amendment 2

An advisor will be elected at the same time as other officers. the same procedures apply with the exception that election requires a 3/4 majority of voters to elect a new moderator if there is an incumbent up for reelection.

(approved 4/7/92)

Amendment 4

-Add to Article 6, section 1

"Publicity Coordinator"

-Add to Article 6, section 3 C

"Attendance"

(approved 4/7/92)

Amendment 5

Article 1, sec 3

Membership shall also include auxiliary members who cannot vote nor hold office. Auxiliary members are those interested in supporting VFL's pro-life doctrine and are interested in a small commitment to VFL but are unable to comply with the qualifications for an active membership. Auxiliary members declare their membership by written statement. Auxiliary members can participate in any VFL activities and receive minutes.

(approved 4/14/92)

Amendment 6

Article 4, sec 1

change to the following:

1. Standing committees may be as follows, membership conditions permitting.

(approved 4/14/92)

VILLANOVANS FOR LIFE

STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

As a result of our deep conviction that human life is a continuum from conception to natural death, and that it is sacred at all stages of development, we, members of the Villanovans For Life, individually and collectively declare our determination to strive for the recognition by our society of the fundamental dignity and rights of all persons in our society. consequent to our beliefs, we reject current anti-life trends in society which arise from the misconception that some human lives are not worth living.

Since abortion has become the most threatening and dehumanizing of these trends; we are particularly opposed to its establishment in society, and resolved to work for its abrogation (repeal or annul by authoritative act). This is consistent with our belief that nonviolent solutions to human problems should be sought rather than measures which proceed from a distorted view toward the dignity of human life. consequently, ethical decisions regarding the relationship between a mother and her unborn child should respect the fact that there are in fact two lives involved and that as a member of the human community, the unborn child shares in the same inalienable rights of the rest of humanity.

In seeking to alter the growing trend in abortion-on-demand, we also recognize the fact that pressures in society which lead women to choose abortion should be fundamentally altered.

We feel that abortion is the major issue confronting our society at this time, thus we will direct the majority of our activity to resolve it.

However, our concern for human life goes far beyond our concern for the unborn. We recognize that there are many areas in which the same anti-life convictions that support legalized abortion also support other violently destructive threats to our society. Hence we seek to supplant the current anti-life ethic with a pre-life sentiment that will permeate society with a view towards non-violence.

In connection with this sentiment, we favor realistic programs that will enhance the position of the elderly, the poor, the physically and mentally handicapped, prisoners, and the ill in our society. We oppose all means of ¹active euthanasia, ²infanticide, ³fetal experimentation, ⁴compulsory or coercive birth regulation, ⁵euthanasia, and ⁶capital punishment. We are also strongly opposed to artificial and technological means of confronting the problem of poverty so as to merely "cover it up."

We will seek to eliminate abortion-on-demand and other related anti-life measures through educational and social action. Our means of the issues to the highest levels attainable. in this manner, we hope to make a serious contribution toward the development of a national pro-life mentality which will recognize the sanctity of life at all stages in its development.