

African American Sisters in Spirit

I. Objectives:

The books change from month to month and over the years members will come and go but the principles will remain the same.

- Promote spiritual and personal growth.
- Promote a positive image of African-American women and anything that positively enhances the survival and well being of African-American women.
- Foster relationships with young and older African-American women.
- Provide an environment that is conducive to learning about the history, and the role African-American women.
- Develop unity among African American women.
- Provide opportunities to educate ourselves as well as the community on socio-economic-political issues that affect the well being of African-American women.

II. Programs:

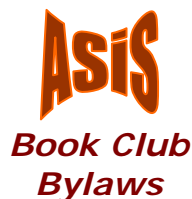
A. The Book Club will:

- Read and discuss one book per month in person
- Sponsor a workshop or seminar featuring an African American author.
- Host an annual Women Retreat, and at least two Girl Nights out events to promote sisterhood.
- Celebrate members birthdays.
- Support community charity, scholarship, and cultural events.

III. Administration:

A. Officers:

- President: lead group discussions, and represent the organization at events.
- Secretary: Check and respond to e-mail, communicate with members, maintain newsletter, and disseminate meeting minutes via e-mail.
- Treasurer: Collect monthly dues, maintain financial records of transactions.
- Event Coordinator: Coordinate and research chapter events (e.g. girls nite out, birthday club, and etc..).
- Webmaster: The Webmaster performs all duties associated with maintenance of the “Official” web page. Keep the web page updated, ensuring that the domain name registration is kept current, and collecting money from treasurer to cover the registration and web space expenses.



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B. Election of Officers

Club officers shall be elected by a simple majority vote of all members present during the November meeting of each year. Proxy votes by active members who cannot attend the election meeting will also be accepted.

- i. The secretary will succeed the President. If, for some reason, the secretary feels that she cannot execute the job of President, nominations will be taken from the floor and a simple majority vote shall elect the President. If any previously elected official seeks and attains the office of President, a new election will be held for the vacant office.
- ii. Emergency Replacements: If an officer should leave before the end of a term, a special election would be held at the next meeting to fill the vacant position.
- iii. Removal of Officers

After careful consideration and in the strictest confidentiality members may remove any Officer from his office, whenever the best interests of the organization would be served thereby. The final decision to remove an officer shall be made through a simple majority vote by all members present at a special meeting. Proxy votes by active members who cannot attend the election meeting will also be accepted.

IV. Dues:

The Book Club Chapter will use its chapter dues of \$10.00 per month to sponsor events, birthday celebrations and maintain administrative fees associated with the website. If additional funds are required for these membership functions, a request shall be made on a volunteer basis. The member hosting the meeting does not pay dues for that given month.

V. Membership:


Membership is open to African American women age of 23+ years old.

A. Active Membership

Active Membership means just that: **BEING AN ACTIVE MEMBER!** Regular attendance at meetings and group functions, and payment of dues. This does not mean, however, that someone will be refused membership if they miss a meeting but membership may be called into question or revoked if more than two consecutive meetings are missed without reason. Active Membership consists of reading the assigned book, and attending meetings on a regular basis. Individuals who cannot be Active Members should not consider this book club.

B. Recruiting

Members are encouraged to invite their personal and professional sisters, but membership will be limited to 12. When someone new joins the club everyone should go out of their way to make her feel welcomed.


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- C. Membership responsibilities:
- i. You can only discuss the portions of the book you have read.
 - ii. Practice courteous public group behavior.
 - iii. Arrive on time.
 - iv. Take turns talking.
 - v. Listen when others are talking.
 - vi. Stick to the point of the discussion.
 - vii. Trust your own opinions.
 - viii. Have opinions to contribute, but don't dominate the discussion.
 - ix. Once you've made your own point, let it go and enjoy considering all the different ways other people look at the same issue.

VI. Meetings:

- A. Members take turns hosting meetings.
- o If a members house cannot accommodate the group she may choose a public venue such as Books-a-Million, Barnes and Nobles, restaurant, and etc..
 - o If agreed upon prior to the meeting day we will switch nights and times.
 - o The host will bring the next book of the month to the meeting to provide information to the club a month prior to the next meeting.
 - o The book club will attempt to meet on the first Saturday of the month.
 - o If a meeting falls on a birthday club celebration, the member who is responsible for hosting that meeting shall make reasonable provisions to accommodate the group with a courtesy appetizer at the event.
- B. Order of meeting:
- o Welcome, and meeting facilitation- President
 - o Reading of meetings – Secretary
 - o Old Business
 - o Treasurer Report – Treasurer
 - o Book Review and rating – President
 - o Announcements/Upcoming Events - Events Coordinator
 - o Action Items
- C. Special Meetings
- From time to time, activities such as cookouts, movie premieres, and other special events come along, which are welcome opportunities for members to meet and gather outside of Regular Meetings. If a regular meeting is held in a public venue, minutes shall be taken.
- D. Invited Guests:
- o Members may bring an adult guest to meetings only after notifying the club president and meeting host.
 - o Children are not invited guests to club meetings, unless there extenuating circumstances attributed to child care arrangements, and the member has discussed it with the host prior to the meeting.



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- Adult guests during birthday club celebrations will be made on a case-by-case basis after discussion with the club president; but due to the nature of the event children are not invited.

VII. Attendance:

If members can not make it to monthly meetings, they should notify the president and meeting host via telephone. If members are tardy more than 15 minutes they must notify the president, and pay a .50 cent late fee and an additional .50 cents for every 30 minutes late thereafter.

VIII. Book Selection:

Members of the group select books to read and then meet once a month to discuss them. Books are chosen a month in advance to allow all members time to find a copy. All members are expected to provide suggestions. We will also make an attempt to read different genres throughout the year to keep things from getting dull as follows:

- January-March: read books by women authors.
- April-June: read books by men authors.
- July: off month
- August-September: read books by African Americans from a variety of sources that include romance, drama, history, and more!
- October-November: read books about the African American Family.
- December- off month

Banned Books:

Books outside of those written about or by African Americans are not considered. Also, a list of banned books and authors will be generated as we read and learn more about past or potential reads.

Reading the selection:

Although things may come up, members are required to make an effort to read the book selection prior to the meeting. Under the honor system, if a member does not read the selected book, she should make a \$5.00 donation to the book club.

IX. Compensation and Reimbursement

Reimbursement of expenses incurred on behalf of the organization, may be made to any Officer or other member upon submission to the President, citing the purpose of the expense (with attached receipts or invoices, if any), and the amount of the requested reimbursement.

X. Amendments

Bylaws are amended on a case by case basis and by membership consensus.