

ARTICLE I

Name

Section I: The name of this organization shall be the Erie County Coalition Against Family Violence (ECCAFV) (the "Organization").

ARTICLE II

Purpose and Philosophy

Section I: The Erie County Coalition Against Family Violence is a member-driven organization which engages in social change activism to dismantle the root causes of domestic violence at the individual, organizational, and institutional level. Our goal is to end domestic violence.

Section II: ECCAFV is formed exclusively for the following educational and charitable purposes:

- A. To assemble and disseminate information on domestic violence to increase awareness of the problem;
- B. To serve as a domestic violence clearinghouse in Erie County, New York by providing funding and resource information to interested parties;
- C. To provide training programs and workshops to new and existing domestic violence programs, organizations that interact with victims of domestic violence, and the general public;
- D. To offer technical assistance to community members with regards to the needs of victims of domestic violence and strategies for addressing the problem;
- E. To raise funds from the general public to support the above purposes; and
- F. To conduct any and all lawful activities that may be useful in accomplishing the foregoing purposes.

Section III: ECCAFV views domestic violence as a manifestation of sexism, racism and other oppressions, inherent in the social, historical and political context of the United States of America. The organization recognizes that those who benefit from oppression systematically silence those with less power.

Section IV: Based on the core values of ECCAFV, we believe:

- All persons should be free from fear and intimidation and that exerting power and control over another is unacceptable.
- Victim's safety must be paramount in all domestic violence efforts.

- Victim empowerment and self-determination is essential in all domestic violence efforts.
- Perpetrators of domestic violence use coercive tactics to gain and maintain power and control regardless of their gender or type of intimate relationship.
- Our culture must hold offenders accountable for their acts of domestic violence.
- Systems responsibility is necessary to all domestic violence coordination efforts.

To eradicate domestic violence, we must

- Take our leadership and be accountable to those who are battered and oppressed.
- Build our change strategies based on their experiences and needs.
- Challenge ourselves to reflect on and apply their reality and truths to our understanding of oppressions and how they intersect.
- Embrace efforts to alter the culture of oppression found within the United States of America in order to realize comprehensive social change.

Section V: No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the organization shall not participate in, or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.

Section VI: Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code or by an organization contributions to which are deductible under section 170 (c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

ARTICLE III

Territory

Section I: The area to be served shall be Erie County, New York State

ARTICLE IV

Membership

Section I: Any person or agency who subscribes to the mission, vision, core values, purposes, and philosophy of ECCAFV shall be eligible to become a member. No person shall be excluded from membership, segregated or otherwise discriminated against within this organization because of age, color, economic status, education, marital status, geographic location, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, physical handicap, or other social category.

- Section II: Members shall pay a yearly fee of an amount determined by the ECCAFV Executive Committee. Separate fees will be established for individual and agency memberships with agencies identifying two delegates with each paid membership fee. At the discretion of the Executive Committee, the yearly dues may be waived in the case of a particular individual member.
- Section III: To be considered “in good standing,” a member shall have paid the appropriate membership fee and shall have attended at least three (3) of the past six (6) monthly meetings.
- Section IV: Members in good standing are empowered to call for an ad-hoc Grievance Committee at any time to address issues related to their membership, ECCAFV activities, and/or organizational leadership. The ECCAFV membership will decide whether the development of a committee is necessary.
- Section V: Ad-hoc Grievance Committees will be charged with providing recommendations to the ECCAFV membership on identified issues and will be required to follow the same procedures as other committees.

ARTICLE V

Governance

- Section I: The affairs of the organization shall be managed by an Executive Committee elected by its membership.
- Section II: The Executive Committee shall include: Community Relations Chair, Member Support Chair, Finance Chair, and Communications Chair. A description of each position is provided below:
- A. COMMUNITY RELATIONS CHAIR
- Speaks the truth of the battered women’s movement to the ECCAFV membership and larger community by being in relationship with local, state, and national groups;
 - Facilitates dialogue and solicits input regarding priority-setting from the ECCAFV leadership, committees, and the membership at large;
 - Coordinates monthly meetings of the ECCAFV membership; and
 - Contributes to projects and activities of the ECCAFV as needed.
- B. MEMBER SUPPORT CHAIR
- Assists in the realization of the ECCAFV’s mission and vision through monitoring and support activities;
 - Facilitates team-building activities for the ECCAFV leadership, committees, and the membership at large;
 - Seeks to identify and grow future ECCAFV leadership; and
 - Contributes to projects and activities of the ECCAFV as needed.

C. FINANCE CHAIR

- Monitors the fiscal stability of ECCAFV by processing funds, recording income and expenses, and maintaining the ECCAFV's financial records;
- Coordinates ECCAFV's annual budget process, reviews funding requests, and provides membership with financial status updates on a regular basis;
- Provides financial reports and support to agencies using ECCAFV as a financial pass-through;
- Complies with governmental reporting requirements; and
- Contributes to projects and activities of the ECCAFV as needed.

D. COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR

- Documents decisions and activities of the ECCAFV leadership, committees, and the membership at large through minutes;
- Prepares organizational correspondence and details ECCAFV participation at public forums, presentations, and other functions as requested;
- Maintains important documents and records for the group for inclusion in the organizational archives;
- Maintains membership attendance lists; and
- Contributes to projects and activities of the ECCAFV as needed.

Section VI: The Domestic Violence Community Coordinator (DVCC) is the only permanent, non-elected, member of the Executive Committee. S/he assists in promoting ECCAFV's mission and achieving its goals. The DVCC serves on each ECCAFV committee as the liaison to the Executive Committee and the larger membership. The DVCC serves as the primary contact person (mail and phone) for the ECCAFV.

Section VII: The Executive Committee shall set the agenda of the ECCAFV and facilitate a means by which items of business are introduced and decided upon by its membership.

Section VIII: The Executive Committee is empowered to act on behalf of the ECCAFV between meetings in accordance with organizational by-laws and in the best interests of its members.

ARTICLE V

Election of Executive Committee

Section I: Elections for the four member-elected Executive Committee positions will be staggered to ensure organizational consistency and reduce the likelihood of having an Executive Committee composed of entirely new members.

Section II: The names of potential Executive Committee candidates will be solicited from the ECCAFV membership via the Election Committee. The Election Committee is responsible for coordinating the election process.

- Section III: The Election Committee shall present the slate of candidates for available positions to the ECCAFV membership at the April meeting in anticipation of a May election. Results of elections will be determined by a majority vote of members in good standing.
- Section IV: Elected Executive Committee members shall serve a two year term of office and will start their term at the beginning of the membership year following their election.
- Section V: Any Executive Committee members' tenure may be terminated for cause provided reasonable notice is given and the individual has an opportunity to speak at the meeting where her or his termination is being considered.
- Section VI: An officer may resign at any time for health or personal reasons. A written notice should be given to all members of the Executive Committee. Such resignation shall take effect on the date of receipt of notice or at any later time specified therein. Acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.
- Section VII: In the event that an Executive Committee officer is unable to fulfill his/her responsibilities due to removal or resignation, the membership shall elect an individual to complete the individual's term of office through a special election to be held within two regular ECCAFV meetings.
- Section VIII: The names of potential candidates for the special election will be solicited from the ECCAFV membership via the Election Committee. The Election Committee will be responsible for announcing the candidates to the membership at least one month prior to the election and coordinating the special election process. Special elections must be decided by a majority vote of members in good standing.
- Section IX: No Executive Committee member shall serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office.

ARTICLE VII

Meetings

- Section I: Regular meetings will be held July to June at a time and location agreed upon by ECCAFV members.
- Section II: The regular meeting in the month of June shall be known as the annual meeting.
- Section III: Special meetings may be called by the Executive Committee or through the written request of five (5) ECCAFV members. The purpose of the meeting shall be stated in the call. Except in cases of emergency at least three (3) days notice shall be given.

ARTICLE VIII

Committees

- Section I: With the exception of the Executive and Election Committees, committees will be established on an ad-hoc basis and shall be appointed by the Executive Committee when necessary to carry out the work of ECCAFV.
- Section II: Each ECCAFV member is expected to serve as a member of one (1) ECCAFV ad-hoc committee during the course of the membership year. The respective committees will select committee chairs.
- Section III: The DVCC will coordinate communications between ad-hoc committees and the Executive Committee and will facilitate discussions within the larger membership on an as needed basis. The DVCC will be responsible for addressing any budgetary or supply requests from committees (including access to letterhead, brochures or ECCAFV logos).

ARTICLE IX

Action by Formal Consensus

- Section I: The rules contained in On Conflict and Consensus by C.T. Lawrence Butler and Amy Rothstein shall govern the ECCAFV in all cases for which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these by-laws and special rules of order that the ECCAFV may adopt.
- Section II: At any regular ECCAFV meeting, the attendance of at least thirty percent (30%) of the members in good standing shall constitute a quorum.
- Section III: When a quorum is present at any meeting, a consensus, using Formal Consensus, shall decide any question. All individuals present at the meeting are invited to participate in the open discussion and identification of concerns.
- Section IV: Only members in good standing will be allowed to declare a block in Formal Consensus proceedings to avoid efforts to forestall ECCAFV activity.

ARTICLE X

Budget

- Section I: Each March, the Executive Committee will develop a proposed annual budget using the ECCAFV's mission and purpose as a guide.
- Section II: The Executive Committee will present the proposed budget in writing to the membership for its consideration. Using Formal Consensus, the

membership must approve the annual budget in advance of the July meeting.

Section III: Requests for additional monies to support the work of ad-hoc committees may be submitted to the Executive Committee by the committee chairs at any time during the fiscal year. Requests must be in writing and should include a detailed explanation.

Section IV: The Executive Committee may approve of any request less than \$250.00 and report on budget amendments to the membership. If amount requested is \$250.00 or greater, the request must be presented by the Executive Committee to the membership for approval using Formal Consensus.

ARTICLE XI

Sponsorship

Section I: ECCAFV will consider partnering with agencies, individuals, or groups to co-sponsor a project or event which requires in-kind or financial support. The ECCAFV will consider requests regardless of membership status, if the following conditions are met:

- A. Community education and awareness is the focus of the project or event.
- B. Project or event seeks to end domestic violence through systemic change.
- C. The submitting agency, individual, or group will list the ECCAFV as a partner or co-sponsor of the project or event.
- D. The request for in-kind or financial support is submitted in writing to the Communications Chair and includes a detailed description. If the request exceeds \$150, then the description must include:
 - Project Goals
 - Objectives
 - Desired Outcomes
 - Target Population
 - Budget
 - Additional Sponsors
 - Timeline
 - What they need from ECCAFV
- E. The agency, individual, or group submitting the request will include an Executive Committee member to serve as an ECCAFV representative who is otherwise not affiliated with the project and may participate in the planning of the project or event. The identified ECCAFV representative is responsible for regular updates to the ECCAFV membership regarding progress of the project or event.

- Section II: If these criteria are met, the amount or degree of in-kind or financial support will be decided upon in the following manner:
- A. In-kind support will be at the discretion of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee must inform the ECCAFV membership of these decisions at the next membership meeting.
 - B. Financial support up to \$150.00 will be decided upon at the discretion of the Executive Committee, who must inform the membership of these decisions at the next membership meeting.
 - C. Financial support exceeding \$150.00 must be approved by ECCAFV members using Formal Consensus.
- Section III: Submitted requests will be considered at the next scheduled Executive Committee meeting. For requests exceeding \$150, the submitted request will be presented at the next general meeting. The Communications Chair will inform the agency, individual, or group submitting the request of their decision in writing and in a timely manner.

ARTICLE XII

Disbursement of Earnings and Assets

- Section I: No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization shall be empowered and authorized to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article II hereof.

ARTICLE XIII

Distribution of Assets upon Dissolution

- Section I: In the event of dissolution, all of the remaining assets and property of the organization shall, after necessary expenses thereof, be distributed to such organizations as shall qualify under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or, to another organization to be used in such manner as in judgment of a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York will best accomplish the general purposes for which the organization was formed.

ARTICLE XIV

Amendment

- Section I: The membership may make, amend, alter and/or repeal the by-laws of the ECCAFV using Formal Consensus.

- Section II Members in good standing must be advised about proposals to make, amend, alter and/or repeal the by-laws of the ECCAFV at least one month before they are considered with a meeting notice.
- Section II: All proposed amendments must be submitted to the ECCAFV membership in writing for their consideration.

ADOPTION OF ECCAFV BY-LAWS

The original constitution of the Erie County Coalition Against Family Violence was adopted in 1978. This restated version of the constitution was adopted on June 6th 2007 by the membership.