

2026



RED HAT SOCIETY

HANDBOOK

a warm welcome



Getting Started

Dear Queens and Members of the Red Hat Society,

The Red Hat Society (RHS) is an international women's social organization. Our mission is to enrich the lives of women across the globe through fun and friendship, while making a positive difference in their lives. Together, our members are redefining camaraderie for the modern woman and proudly reshaping how women are viewed in today's culture. When our members gather wearing red or pink hats paired with purple or lavender attire, the result is a truly magical experience.

You'll quickly see that we are unlike any other women's society. We offer fresh, joyful ways to bring a sense of "recess" back into your life. RHS HATquarters supports members around the world through a vibrant, private online community, with Hatter activities held both online and in person, ranging from small local gatherings to large conventions. We encourage you to take advantage of the RHS online membership tips and tools to enhance your own unique magic in the hat. For more information, visit RedHatSociety.com.

Upon joining, every member automatically becomes part of the worldwide **"Ruby's Official Red Hat Society Chapter."** Your single membership allows you to connect with other Chapters and Members and provides access to a wide range of resources available on our website and through RHS communications.

RHS exists primarily through membership dues, which support member programs, RHS operations, and our exclusive custom website. For a complete list of benefits included with your annual membership, please visit RedHatSociety.com/benefits.

If you do not regularly use a computer and would like to stay up to date on RHS happenings, you may choose an "email femail" (an RHS member who can help keep you connected). You can also access your information using a smartphone or by visiting your local library to log on to RedHatSociety.com.

Happy Hatting!

Welcome! We are so excited that you have joined RHS! Your member experience in the Red Hat Society can be however you would like it to be! The possibilities are endless! More of a social butterfly? Join multiple chapters and spread your wings at events often! Not quite ready to jump into the deep end? Head over to RedHatSociety.com and start making online connections – with members from all around the globe, there's always someone to talk to. If you continue with your commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of women through fun and friendship, you can't go wrong!

How it All Began



In the fall of 1997, on a trip to Tucson, AZ, Sue Ellen Cooper impulsively paid \$7.50 for an old red fedora in a thrift shop. When a good friend was nearing a "fifty- ish" birthday, Sue Ellen cast about for an idea for an original gift.

Inspired by a well-known poem, "Warning", which begins "When I am an old woman, I shall wear purple, with a red hat which doesn't go and doesn't suit me," she wanted to encourage her friend to grow older in a playful manner. She gave her friend a red hat of her own suggesting that she keep it as a reminder to grow older playfully - on her terms.

Sue Ellen Cooper, founder of The Red Hat Society, purchased her first red hat at a thrift store.

The symbolism behind the red hat had a profound impact on women Sue Ellen encountered. Those women responded by donning their own red hats and entering a new women's movement

embracing a renewed outlook on life filled with fun and friendship, fulfilling lifelong dreams. The Red Hat Society® was born. No longer would maturing women be invisible to society. They simply are not done yet.

Red Hat Society Day is celebrated annually on April 25th to commemorate the first gathering of the Red Hat Society in 1998. This special day reminds us of the importance of friendship, fun, and embracing each age with pride and joy. See www.daysoftheyear.com/days/red-hat-society-day/



Linda Murphy, the recipient of the first hat.



The information, guidelines, and examples of conduct outlined in this member handbook are provided for informational purposes only and are not intended to be all-inclusive. This handbook serves as a general guide to the expectations and standards of the Red Hat Society and is not a comprehensive legal document.

HATquarters reserves the right to address conduct, situations, or activities not specifically mentioned here, and to update or modify these guidelines at any time.

Members agree to abide by all society rules, policies, and regulations as a condition of membership.

The Red Hat Society's handbook is part of our intellectual property and is protected by copyright. It is created specifically for the enjoyment and guidance of our valued members, helping them get the most out of their membership. It is truly part of the magic in our hats.

This handbook is intended for official RHS Queens and Members only. (The handbook may be updated at any time, as needed.)

CONTENTS

Thank you for joining the cause!	06
Frequently Asked Questions	08
Three Official Rules	09
Ways to Play	10
Staying Connected	12
Guidelines & Etiquette	16
Customs & Traditions	20
Public Relations, Partnerships, & Advertising	24
Terms & Conditions	26
Queens' Realm	32
Ambassadors' Briefing	39
How to Contact The Red Hat Society	40



THANK YOU FOR JOINING THE CAUSE!

You are now part of one of the largest international women's social societies, originally founded for ladies approaching 50 and beyond and now open to women of all ages. Membership in the Red Hat Society is a rewarding way to reconnect with old friends, make new friends, and rediscover the joy of getting together with other like-minded women purely for the purpose of having FUN! We whole-heartedly promote periods of "recess" from the cares and duties of everyday life, and it is even healthy for you too!

In the years since the RHS was established, we have been thrilled to witness even more meaningful interpersonal connections and deeper emotional support systems being built among our members – not only within individual chapters but worldwide.

We are also reshaping how women are viewed in today's culture by promoting not only fun and friendship, freedom from stereotypes, but physical and mental fitness as a foundation for healthy, rewarding lives, and the fulfillment of goals and dreams.

The RHS is different from all other women's organizations in that chapters are as diverse as the women who lead them. We are about support, kindness, and bringing fun into our lives by wearing signature colors. We are proud of our unique sisterhood and celebrate all members and their individuality!

HATquarters and our website, RedHatSociety.com, are the hub of the Red Hat Society. The website is the primary place for members to connect with one another, serving as a lively hive of conversation and ongoing sharing of ideas and interests. The many forums available for Queens and Members to interact are, as they say, "worth the price of admission" all on their own.

The website is also the place where HATquarters posts updated information about worldwide events and happenings within the RHS at large, in addition to tools, tips and services provided for the Membership. Check in as often as you can; but be warned: "ten minutes" can turn into an hour!

OUR PASSION

The Red Hat Society promotes our 5 "Fs":

Fun	We celebrate life at every age and stage
Friendship	We solidify and support the expansion of the bonds of Sisterhood
Freedom	To express ourselves as we discover and explore new interests and renew abandoned ones
Fitness	We embrace healthy, life-lengthening lifestyles
Fulfillment	We realize our personal potential and are dedicated to the fulfillment of lifelong dreams through the power of fun!

Our Cause

Our cause is our commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of women through fun and friendship across the globe.

The Red Hat Philosophy of Life

The simple gift of a red hat, from one friend to another, has grown into a universal symbol for women around the globe who victoriously celebrate their entrance into each stage of life. Its social message has resonated with millions of women, regardless of race, creed, occupation or age. Today hatters are commonly seen out frolicking and embracing life to the fullest while wearing the now-famous symbol – a red or pink hat with purple or lavender regalia.

We emphasize the things that all ladies have in common. We invite all ladies to join with us on our "march to take over the world." Wink! We have become our own women's movement – not strident, not angry – placing a strong emphasis on the positive aspects of life. We stress the importance of friendship and sisterhood and the value of play; and we share a determination to find the good everywhere possible.

We use the term PLAY, a lot! Our definition for play is: Any activity that inspires enjoyment using the power of fun through social engagement. We also use the term RECESS. Our definition is: Dedicating time for yourself to enjoy and relax without having to feel guilty from your usual everyday responsibilities. You can get back to those responsibilities after you have some ME time with special RHS sisters.

We value the individual contribution of each member while recognizing that we are all part of something much larger. Together, we are opening doors to a better today and tomorrow for women of all ages. We're so glad to have you with us.

The Concept of Royalty

Why royalty? Why in the world not? We proudly embrace royal designations and titles as our due. Every member is encouraged to come up with a title for herself, perhaps a humorous one, that reflects a personal characteristic or interest. See the section below, "Choosing a Royal Title," for examples - and have fun with it!

The following are answers to commonly asked questions

Q: Why do RHS Members dress primarily in red/purple or pink/lavender?

A: Being a Hatter is about our global Sisterhood which is known for our distinctive colors of red with purple, and pink with lavender. Our colors are what make Hatters a unique, fun and recognizable group. Although adding other colors can be fun, it detracts from the distinctiveness of our global Sisterhood.

Q: Why should I notify RHS HATquarters if I am planning a large event?

A: RHS would appreciate if Members planning a large event (involving more than 100 people) would notify HATquarters before proceeding, as RHS may have an event scheduled for a similar time or place. This ensures that events will not conflict and allow coordination in planning. Please email RHS at events@RedHatSociety.com.

Q: Some have asked exactly what constitutes a hat: will a bow suffice? Or what shade of purple is the proper shade? Can I wear red shoes with my purple outfit? Can I wear a purple print dress? Can I wear a magenta hat?

A: Remember, this is regalia, not a uniform. Each member chooses how she will express her individuality. It is more important to enjoy each other's company than to worry about small details regarding what each one is wearing. Let's keep the fun in the Society. Just stick to the basics: red (or pink!) on the head, and something purple (or lavender) below (sometimes referred to as Red/Pink on the Head and Purple/Lavender on the Shoulders). Simple! That is what makes being a red or pink hatter so appealing...less rules and more fun.

Q: How old do you have to be to become a Member of the Red Hat Society?

A: All ages are welcome. Perspective members include women of all ages who recognize their need for more fun and friendship in their lives. We intentionally keep our dues low in order to encourage interested women to join the fun.

However, attendance at official Red Hat Society-sponsored events requires participants to be at least 21 years old, due to the presence of alcohol and content that may not be suitable for younger audiences. Age requirements for individual chapters or chapter-hosted events are determined by each chapter's Queen..

Children under the age of 18 may attend gatherings only when accompanied by a fully paid, active member who is 21 or older.

Hatting does run in families! Although, children do not typically attend chapter events, occasionally, private events are held to include everyone from grandmothers to grandchildren. Events that include children must be clearly advertised as such to potential attendees.

Chapters may include both red and pink hatters, with the only difference between them being the colors they wear. Queens may be either red or pink hatters.

See RedHatSociety.com/faq/ for additional Frequently Asked Questions.

Three Official Rules



The Red Hat Society has always enjoyed using a play on words. From sharing that we have “no rules,” it is always fun to place our emphasis on play. The truth is, we would not be a thriving and global sisterhood if we didn’t have a few rules for members to play by. HATquarters is proud to have always limited them to a select few giving our queens and members plenty of room for play.

These rules are:

1

Have fun! Enjoy meeting new friends in your neighborhood and around the world, all while maintaining the commitment to making a positive difference in your life as well as in the lives of women through fun and friendship.

2

A woman who wishes to participate as an RHS queen or member must pay annual membership dues and renew on time. Simply put, she must “pay to play.” Membership dues are paid directly to RHS HATquarters.

It is also the responsibility of each RHS Chapter Queen to ensure that all women participating in her chapter(s) and listed on her roster support the Society by maintaining individual annual memberships. (See the “Queens’ Realm” section for more details.)

3

When participating in RHS gatherings or events, queens and members wear the Society’s signature colors: red and purple for women over 50, and pink and lavender for those under 50. Our regalia makes us unique and eye-catching, inviting curiosity and giving others a natural opportunity to ask questions and learn about the Society. How each queen or member chooses to interpret and wear these colors is entirely her own, with fun always at the center.

Ways to Play

Need some more ideas of ways to play and get connected? Check out some of the tips below.

VISIT REDHATSOCIETY.COM

Log in to your RHS account and update your personal profile with details about yourself. It'll make it easier for others to find and connect with you!

Request to join chapters in your area, message queens and members in your neighborhood or across the globe, jump in the conversation in the "Ruby's Official Red Hat Society Chapter", and so much more. Have fun exploring and getting to know others within RHS.

There may be times when there are no chapters in your area to join YET. Don't be discouraged. You are always part of the "Ruby's Official Red Hat Society Chapter". If you can't find a local chapter to join, we can always help you to start your own or just continue to play without belonging to a local chapter in your area. You are invited to all events that are posted for ALL to join.

CHAPTER OUTINGS (AND IN-INGS)

Members are encouraged to be respectful and RSVP in a timely manner. Doing so greatly helps event organizers and ensures each gathering gets off to a smooth and successful start.

The Red Hat Society ever-so-gently reminds you of the Member Etiquette Section of this handbook. When representing the RHS at events or outings, we

request that you promote a positive attitude and leave a lasting positive impression on all that you encounter. Remember, when you are in regalia, you are representing more than yourself.

PLAYING WITH MORE THAN ONE CHAPTER

Your membership covers it all; dues are paid once a year to RHS HATquarters, and your participation in local chapters is limitless!

As a queen or member, you may participate with as many chapters as you wish. RHS allows queens and members to be listed on multiple chapter rosters while selecting one chapter as their home or primary chapter. The home chapter Queen is responsible for assisting members with maintaining their membership status and keeping personal contact information up to date.

Some members enjoy fun all around by participating with a local chapter, playing with other chapters at events, and chatting with all the ladies in our online community. You only need to pay for one membership. You're automatically added to the "Ruby's Official Red Hat Society Chapter". There are no barriers, and no limitations. Party and play to your heart's content!

Please note that some Queens choose to lead more than one chapter. Each additional chapter requires its own annual chapter fee.

RHS annual membership dues are paid to HATquarters. There are some chapters that may request you to pay additional dues to cover the chapter operations (see the Chapter Dues under the "Queens' Realm" sections for more information).

HOOTS

A "hoot" is our word for an unstructured and extremely informal event. It often (but not always) involves a train. We choose a location and meet there for an event, a meal, or even just a day of shopping. The key to a Hoot is that each participant is responsible for her own reservations, transportation, and any meals.

Be sure to check it is okay to have a gathering in the place you plan to hoot. If your chapter is hosting a Hoot, you can use the RHS website event calendar to invite other chapters in your area to participate.

Occasionally, HATquarters hosts a Hoot in various regions. We've also begun the tradition of Worldwide Hoot Days, when Hatters from around the world all hoot on the same day, generally on the second Saturday in June each year.

MULTI-CHAPTER EVENTS

To connect with other local chapters and make new friends, many chapters choose to organize regional get-togethers known as "Funventions". The intent of these events is for members to have fun together and meet other hatters in the process. See more details in the "Queens Realm" section.

RHS-SPONSORED CONVENTIONS

RHS HATquarters generally hosts international events and conventions, as well as occasional regional and special events. Members are extended a royal invitation to attend all official RHS-sponsored gatherings in person or virtually. These fabulous galas are where hatters gather for a period of non-stop fun. (You can rest when you get home!) Imagine the thrill of seeing a ballroom filled with a sea of red, purple, lavender and pink!

Our RHS-sponsored events bring together sisters from all over the globe and provide great opportunities for RHS website buddies to meet in person.

To learn more about RHS-sponsored events, visit the RHS website. All upcoming events hosted by chapters and HATquarters are listed under the Events menu on RedHatSociety.com, making it easy to stay informed and not miss a thing.

KEEPING THE FUN GOING!

Queens and members may connect with local members through the website to form or join a chapter, or they may choose to remain part of the online "Ruby's Official Red Hat Society Chapter."

Both options offer wonderful opportunities to learn, share, and connect with others. Members are welcome to attend larger gatherings listed on the RHS event calendar, participate in RHS-sponsored conventions and regional events, join conversations on the online community board, and build friendships with sisters around the world.



Staying CONNECTED

HATquarters is continually working on new ways to help members find friendship, share fun ideas and talk about their life experiences.



HATQUARTERS

The primary function of a physical location was to provide space for the day-to-day business operations required to support RHS members. As technology and member needs have evolved, HATquarters has team members located in various regions. HATquarters is, after all, truly in the hearts of the members. HATquarters representatives are available upon request to attend chapter events or celebrations, either in person or via Zoom. Contact us at info@RedHatSociety.com for more details.

The best ways to connect with HATquarters and other RHS members through the website and social media.

REDHATSOCIETY.COM

Our website is accessible on both desktop and mobile devices.

Our queens and members are the heart of the Red Hat Society, and HATquarters is the hub. The website serves as the central place where hatters receive communications from HATquarters and connect with sisters around the world.

It's the center of activity where stories are told, friends are made, activities are planned and information about upcoming events are shared. You can also find member-exclusive downloads, party favors, craft ideas, and games. It pays to know the RHS website!

SOCIAL MEDIA

The Red Hat Society has a thriving social media presence! Queens and members from around the world chat on our own social platforms.

Visit our website:
redhatsociety.com

Join us on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/OfficialRedHatSociety>

Subscribe to us on YouTube:
youtube.com/user/RubyRedhat

Follow our photos and videos:
instagram.com/RedHatSociety

REFERRAL CARDS

We have created special referral cards just for you. We have provided you with a link to print them as you need them. They have your member ID number printed on them. Use them in your recruiting activities for a couple of reasons:

1. These referral cards are linked to the Invite-A-Friend campaign. Each time someone uses your referral ID number to sign up, both you and the new member will be entered into the contest. Wouldn't it be fun to win a prize for doing what you already enjoy doing?
2. By using a referral code, we can track how many members joined due to your efforts.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership applications are available to download and print as needed. Because referral cards are also available, it may not always be necessary to give an application to everyone you speak with. However, if you do share an application, please write your Member ID number in the upper right corner so it can be tracked. Applications are

available to download or print in the Members' Corner on our website.

SEARCH FEATURES

Our search features are exclusive to members only and requires that the user be a registered queen or member of the Red Hat Society. This means that queens are only contacted by real members who are authorized to contact them and want to play! This also helps protect you from unwanted solicitors, vendors, and other salespeople who do not have access to any of our members' contact information.

Queens and members use the SEARCH features to get in touch with chapters in cities they may be traveling to, or to spread the word about an upcoming event. Use the SEARCH feature to connect, message and request to join chapters. It's a great way to get connected! If you have a challenge, don't forget your team at HATquarters stands ready to help you. Send an email to MemberServices@RedHatSociety.com detailing exactly what you need and we'll be happy to help.

RUBY’S OFFICIAL RED HAT SOCIETY CHAPTER

The “Ruby’s Official Red Hat Society Chapter” is the group which all current members are automatically part of. This is where hatters from all over the world post messages, share stories, get excited about upcoming events and make new friends! All queens and members are invited to join in the fun! It’s open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. (Somebody’s always up on the other side of the world!)

RHS WEBSITE EVENT CALENDAR

Use the RHS Website Event Calendar to find HATquarters-sponsored events and/or chapter events near you. Check it often to see what’s going on in your neighborhood!

**NEWS & NOTES
(Formerly known as Hatters’ Chatter)**

Once a month, HATquarters sends an email newsletter filled with ideas, updates, memorable adventures, and heartwarming stories shared by members from around the world. It’s where you’ll find what’s coming up in the months ahead along with a special feature highlighting one queen each month as our “Queen of the Month.”

Be sure to read the newsletter each month to stay informed about what’s happening in your Society. It is emailed directly to you and archived in the Members’ Corner of the website for easy reference.

We strive to keep you up to date with the latest RHS news, and once you have the scoop, we encourage you to share it with your chapterettes. This ongoing communication helps keep our members engaged, connected, and excited about what lies ahead.

RED HATTER MATTERS

Our official digital magazine, the “Red Hatter Matters,” is published at least two times a year online on the RHS website and included as part of your membership. It’s a magazine that is dedicated to – and all about – you! It’s filled with essential information about RHS activities, current RHS events, new benefits and seasonal fun. We

also publish the exploits of some of our most fun-loving hatters, share recipes, and more.

If you wish, you may order a hard copy of the RHM as a collector’s item. Have a story you think should be featured? Simply email it, along with photos, to Stories@RedHatSociety.com.

If others are included in your photos, please provide their names and ensure they are paid members.

Please note that while we welcome submissions, HATquarters is not responsible for verifying the accuracy of information provided by contributors.

FRIDAY BROADCAST

The Friday Broadcast will return in 2026 in the form of the Official RHS Friday Podcast. Members may apply to be a guest by completing the guest form found under the “Members” menu on RedHatSociety.com.

Guests may appear in person in the Red Hat Studio located in Utah, by Zoom or with a RHS HATquarters representative on location at an Event.

QUARTERLY “STATE OF THE SISTERHOOD” GATHERING

Each quarter, HATquarters will hold a “State of the Sisterhood” gathering on Zoom. Preregistration is required to attend this members-only gathering. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting with your unique link to join the gathering. Please keep this link handy because you will use the same link for each gathering in the future. You only need to register once for the series of gatherings.

To see the gathering schedule and to register, go to redhatsociety.com/zoom-registration. A short summary of the gathering will be available at a later date on our private YouTube channel.

MEMBER SURVEYS

The question was previously asked, “Will members have voting rights in the future?” Surveys are essentially your opportunity to Vote. This allows members to have a greater input on the direction of the society. Please take time to complete these surveys as future decisions are based on the feedback received.

SPECIAL EMAILS AND MAILED OFFERS

Members receive special communications from HATquarters, on such subjects as RHS-sponsored events, surveys, online store promotions, partners who support the RHS and more.

All emails from partners are sent out on behalf of the partner by RHS directly. RHS never shares your information with outside individuals or organizations.

Mailed Offers: On occasion, RHS partners may provide queens and members with specialized mailings direct to their door. RHS queens and members can rest assured that we do not share your personal information with any partner. RHS handles the mailings for these special partners through our mailing channels.

YOUR STORIES

We encourage all hatters to send and share stories about their chapters or individual members (with pictures!) to HATquarters at Stories@RedHatSociety.com to use in general communications. Although we cannot use every story we receive, we love to share as many of them as possible with RHS members everywhere!



Guidelines & Etiquette

REQUIREMENTS OF QUEENS AND MEMBERS

The Red Hat Society believes in the guidelines as denoted below in the Queen & Member Pledge. Queens and members are asked to uphold these guidelines so that we might all--together--ensure the global sisterhood of the Society lives on for generations to come. *This pledge applies to members 18 and over.*

REGALIA – WEARING YOUR COLORS

Members who have reached the magical age of 50 wear any shade of red hats and purple clothing. Those under 50 (fondly referred to as pink hatters) wear any shade of lavender clothing with pink hats. This is all that is absolutely needed to be dressed in “regalia.” Be creative and wear your colors the way you feel most comfortable.

Your entire outfit from head to toe does not have to be purple or lavender, but the more color the better—and that can (but does not have to) include shoes! Each member is encouraged to wear colors, display creativity and play dress-up to her heart’s content. We wear our colors, so our adoring public knows who we are. Our doting public enjoys our regalia almost as much as we do!

Note: Full regalia may not be appropriate every day of the week, and hatters often choose to wear purple or lavender only on the top or the bottom. As long as you are wearing our colors, you’re good to go! Remember, the spirit of the Red Hat Society is in your heart and mind! We have found that wearing an RHS member pin is a great way to let women you may encounter know where your heart lies. Consider wearing your pin every day, no matter what else you may be wearing. You will be surprised what amazing conversations can be sparked through wearing it.

CHOOSING ROYAL TITLES

In the spirit of fun, every hatter is encouraged to dream up a title for herself. We have ladies, baronesses, princesses, duchesses, countesses and many more! Perhaps the chosen title refers to a particular hobby, personality trait or interest, such as “Lady Luck” for someone who feels lucky in many ways. If you like to snap photos, “Digital Dame” could be fun! A playful title can be the first step toward giving you permission to play.

Feel free to choose one of those titles or create your own! (Your given name is just that, given to you. Your last name may be your father’s or spouse’s name. This is the opportunity for you to name yourself.)

GUESTS

All women participating in Red Hat Society chapter activities are expected to be paid members. While the Society encourages queens and members to invite guests to attend chapter events as a way to experience what RHS is all about, these invitations are intended as introductions only.

Guests are welcome to dress festively; however, official RHS colors and regalia are reserved for paid members. Wearing red, pink, purple, or lavender hats and attire signifies membership in the Society and should reflect that commitment.

Guests may attend chapter events up to three times, per RHS policy. The Chapter Queen may choose to limit guest attendance to one, two, or three occasions before membership is required. Guests should not continue attending chapter events unless they join as an Official Member or Queen, and they should be provided with clear information on how to become a member.

By inviting new women to experience the magic of our sisterhood and encouraging them to join, you help preserve the integrity, visibility, and legacy of the Red Hat Society.

BE KIND TO EACH OTHER

Being kind is so important! The RHS values integrity and respectful behavior among its members as well as between its members and the general public. The RHS does not condone, nor will it tolerate any instance of harassment between members in which intentional ill will is conveyed. If an instance of harassment is reported to the Red Hat Society, we will record the instance and take appropriate action. If unbecoming behavior continues, we reserve the right to restrict access to the RHS website & social media platforms and possibly revoke membership.

IN PUBLIC

As royalty, very little needs to be said about public manners. Still, it’s important to remember that when we appear in public wearing RHS regalia, we are highly visible and instantly recognizable. The public’s response is overwhelmingly positive because of our bright colors, joyful spirit, and the way we treat one another and those around us.

Every queen and member represents the Red Hat Society whenever she is in regalia. While we celebrate life and have fun, we are also expected to uphold common courtesy and respectful behavior at all times. Lighthearted fun is always encouraged; however, raucous, rude, or disruptive behavior does not reflect RHS values and is unacceptable.

Courtesy matters in all settings. When attending a play or movie, please remove your hat during the performance so those seated behind you can enjoy the experience. When dining out, tip appropriately and treat servers and service staff with kindness and respect. We want every restaurant, venue, and business to remember Hatters fondly and welcome us back with enthusiasm.

Queen & Member Pledge

(Of course we have a pledge!)

I pledge to faithfully support my red and pink hat sisters. I will use this positive spirit to impact my local community with the fun and friendship found only in official Red Hat Society membership.

I promise to honor RHS by:

- ✿ Committing to all values, guidelines, principles, and the Mission Statement of RHS found within the RHS handbook and website*
- ✿ Actively participating in the sisterhood (i.e., playing online, taking part in local, regional and international events)*
- ✿ Representing RHS as true royalty when I am in regalia by being kind to others and carrying myself in a ladylike fashion*
- ✿ Ensuring my annual membership dues are renewed on time*
- ✿ Encouraging those with whom I am hatting to become a member-in-good-standing of the Red Hat Society.*

I pledge to wear the colors of official membership with pride - professing to the world that “Red and Pink Hatters Matter!”

I pledge to share the fun found in RHS Membership with women I encounter as a testament to the Society’s global sisterhood and quest to ensure women get the most out of life!

Most importantly, I pledge to ensure that FUN is at the heart of everything I do as a red or pink hatter.

Please also remember to be kind to those who provide services to you. Treat them how you would like to be treated. When dining out, please treat the staff they way you would like your family to treat you when you prepare meals for them.

Above all, remember that true royalty is defined by generosity, grace, and good manners. When we lead with courtesy, we honor ourselves, one another, and the Red Hat Society as a whole.

IN THE CHAPTER

The Red Hat Society stands firm in our commitment to being an inclusive group. All members are a vital part of our sisterhood. We request that all members (queens included) should be well-mannered when communicating with others. The purpose of the Red Hat Society is to promote a positive environment for all who support our mission of fun, friendship, freedom, fitness, and fulfillment.

Occasionally there may be disharmony within the chapter - we're all different, it should be no surprise that we don't all want to play the same way! It is recommended that the member who is unhappy be encouraged to peacefully and with goodwill join a chapter that better fits her interests or start her own chapter. This is called a Spin-Off chapter. Furthermore, members are encouraged to visit other chapters to find the best fit for their own interests.

ON SOCIAL MEDIA

The comments we say, both in-person and online, can affect others. Let's use our words to encourage each other and be positive, even when we're not face-to-face. The Official Red Hat Society groups within RedHatSociety.com and on social media have a certain set of guidelines that we require all members to follow:

1. BE KIND AND POSITIVE.

We want to keep the integrity of this group for fun and friendship. We always want to be positive and kind in our posts – anyone not respecting this attitude may be removed from the group, and any disrespectful comments or posts will be deleted without notice.

2. BE INCLUSIVE.

RHS is inclusive, not exclusive, and posts in this group should always be relevant to all involved. No discussion of religion or politics, please. Discussion means: “the

action or process of talking about something in order to reach a decision or to exchange ideas.” This does not mean that members cannot wish blessings on other members.

3. NO HATE SPEECH OR BULLYING.

We want everyone to feel safe and welcome in this group. Bullying of any kind is not allowed. Degrading comments will not be tolerated.

4. NO PERSONAL ATTACKS ON PEOPLE OR EVENTS.

If you have a complaint, please email MemberServices@RedHatSociety.com and we will work with you to address the issue.

5. NO SOLICITING.

Please do not solicit members or the community in this group. Sales posts or promotions are not permitted unless the product or company has been approved by RHS. Any unapproved posts will be deleted, and the offender may be removed from the group.

CHARITIES VS. FUN RAISING

If any individual chapter or member wishes to participate in charitable events in regalia as part of their chapter activities, we ask that they do so in their chapter name and mention that they are a part of the Red Hat Society, rather than identifying themselves in the name of the Society as a whole. We want to make sure that no one feels any pressure to participate in charitable events if they don't wish to: we're all about fun! Many hatters do charity activities as a part of their “regular” lives and prefer to keep their hatting time as pure recess time!

DONATIONS TO THE RED HAT SOCIETY

We are honored by requests to accept a financial donation on behalf of members and pleased that the Red Hat Society is able to bring such meaning to so many women around the world.

While the Red Hat Society is not currently incorporated as a charitable organization, we accept donations to sustain the Society's continuing efforts to enhance the lives of its members.

Please note that donations cannot be deducted for tax purposes.

ENCOUNTERING NON-SUPPORTING WOMEN

If you run into women in red hat regalia, looking just like a bona fide chapter yet discover they are not really members, keep in mind that they may be unaware of the membership requirement. Gently explain the membership concept, invite them to join the official RHS, and direct them to RedHatSociety.com. We sometimes run across ladies who know almost nothing about the RHS, including the necessity for the payment of dues. Explain that it's so much more fun to be connected with the Society as a whole. Above all, be friendly and gentle.

In other situations, you may encounter a group of women who call themselves red or pink hatters, dress in regalia and know that they are not truly members. The most effective way you can support the Society is to not support their events nor invite them to yours. That Hattitude may seem harsh but if they are allowed to participate in our real members' events without actually joining, they most likely never will.

We must collectively be kind but firm about requiring membership. The women hosting the events in question should not call it a Red Hat Society event if they are not members of the Society. That is a right available only to real members. Don't let these women ruin your RHS membership experience. The best way to control this challenge is not support events and activities they host.

We simply ask you to do your best to share that there is a membership requirement and gather the leader's information. Please email that information to HATquarters via MemberServices@RedHatSociety.com. We will confidentially and courteously contact these women and offer them the opportunity to join.



QUEENS

You decided to join RHS as a queen (or you're simply popping in to see what being a queen is all about – you can upgrade later if you wish)! We are so honored to add you as a member of RHS royalty and are excited to see how your reign unfolds. As queen, you pledge to stand aligned with the Red Hat Society's principles, values, and guidelines.

Not every woman who joins the Red Hat Society wants to dive in and become a queen – at least, not yet! That's okay! We are delighted that you have become royalty as a member (at large) of the greatest women's social organization in the world!

HOW TO UPGRADE TO QUEEN

So, you've decided you'd like to become a queen - wonderful! You may choose to upgrade your membership at any time.

Your membership expiration date will remain the same, and you'll receive a new queen membership card at your next renewal. In the meantime, you can always download an updated copy of your membership card from the website.

For example, if you became a member on May 1 and choose to upgrade to queen on June 1, your membership will still expire on May 1 of the following year.

CUSTOMS & TRADITIONS

Things that make the Red Hat Society unique!

Birthday Suits (No, not that kind!)

Wear the RHS colors in reverse for your entire birthday month (purple hats with red clothing or lavender hats with pink clothing). This will ensure that you get the extra special attention you deserve. It's all about you! You can also don the birthday colors during the RHS birthday month of April! If your birthday is in April, you can celebrate your half-birthday month in October with your purple hat.

Brim-Brushing

Hatters enjoy gestures of affection when bidding each other hello or goodbye, but hugs tend to knock hats to the ground. Therefore, when in our regalia, we are comfortable with mutual shoulder touching and gentle brushing of hat brims.

Calling Cards

No, not business cards! It's more fun to exchange calling cards to keep in touch. Find sources for ordering cards under SHOP on the RHS website.

Coronation Pledge – For Recognition of Queens

*I _____ do solemnly swear that I,
having ascended to the lofty status of Queen,
will gracefully and regally fulfill the duties of the office,
including, but not limited to, the following:*

*I will reign over my chapterettes with a kind, benevolent spirit,
valuing each member for who she is.*

*I will promote harmony and understanding
among our world-wide sisterhood.*

I will wear my colors and regalia proudly.

*I will wield my scepter and make grand
pronouncements whenever the mood strikes.*

*I will honor the spirit of the little girl that lives
inside myself and those of my Red and Pink Hat sisters as well.*

*I will promote the core values of the RHS - fun, friendship,
freedom, fitness, and fulfillment – wherever, whenever I can.*

*I will never call a “meeting,” make a “motion”
or possess a copy of Robert’s Rules of Order.*

*I will refuse to take myself – or anything else
within my power - too seriously.*

I will do myself, and the Red Hat Society, PROUD!

Chapterettes

A special name for ladies within a chapter.

Coronation

The formal ceremony held for queens of the Society. The official “crowning” ceremony can be simple, elaborate, crazy, silly or all of the above—as long as it's fun! Typically, a royal coronation ceremony is included on the agenda at each International Convention. **ALL QUEENS HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE CORONATED, BOTH RED AND PINK QUEENS.**

Dessert First

Who wants to sit around waiting for the good stuff? Not us! We like the “dessert first” approach to life!

Meetings

Hatters don't have them (a bit too boring for our tastes)! We prefer gatherings, hoots, outings, get-togethers, affairs, and galas. Anything but “meetings”!

No Boys Allowed

Don't get us wrong, we love our men! But RHS events are for ladies only. We've found that our men enjoy seeing us happy together and gladly find other activities to occupy their time while we “hat.” While men may not be members, rare exceptions may be made for chapters to invite significant others to certain events. Of course, our favorite guys are always welcome to drive parade floats or lend a hand when help is needed!

Official Greeting

Touch your brim 3 times and then touch your heart! A subtle message to say “hello” to other hatters.



Official Instrument

The Kazoo. Why? Anyone can play one (just hum into it!), they're portable, and group concerts are easily arranged: hum away!

Official Sport

What could possibly be a more appropriate “sport” for hatters than shopping? Whether we're scouring thrift stores, browsing the online Official RHS Store for bling, keeping up on offers from licensed vendors, or trooping through the mall in full regalia, we are constantly working on our “game.” Our sporting equipment? Our credit cards! This is the sport we were born to play!

Pink Hatters

Pink hatters, sometimes known as “Ladies in Waiting,” are a wonderful and essential part of the Red Hat Society. Not yet 50, pink hatters deck themselves in lavender and pink until their “magic birthday!” Some chapters are made up of entirely pink hatters! Pink hatters also reign as queens—but they continue to wear lavender and pink until they REDuate. Pink hatters are a huge part of the RHS global sisterhood. Ladies of all ages find sisterhood in the RHS!



Purple Alert!

A Purple Alert is called when a sister is down in the dumps and needs a little cheering up. Hatters announce the 911; grab a tub of ice cream each to share and head over to the sister's home to provide some laughter, sweet treats, and good spirits! Works every time. Sometimes a Purple Alert is called through social media where members can provide words of encouragement and blessings on behalf of the member in need.

Red Hat Society Day – April 25th

The Official RHS birthday! This is a fun-filled holiday celebrating the anniversary of the very first Red Hat Society gathering which took place on April 25, 1998. Queens and members come up with their own unique way to celebrate. Many of us choose to celebrate all month long.

REDuation

A pink hatter’s rite of passage may include a creative ceremony or just a simple swapping of a pink hat for a red one. We encourage elaborate ceremonies whenever possible, especially when you celebrate the big 5-0! Esteemed Vice Mother Linda Murphy wrote a REDuation poem that is often used in such ceremonies!

Official RHS REDuation Poem
For Members turning 50

No longer is 50 a birthday to dread
But cause for a celebration instead
And so we salute a former Pink Hatter
As we proudly proclaim that RED HATTERS MATTER!

Now gather ye round and join hand in hand
And ask that our sister _____, please stand
As I carefully lift her pink hat from her head
To replace it today with a chapeau in RED

We shall drape purple over her shoulder
The color we wear as we grow older
REDuation complete, we announce this day
_____ is ready to come out with the big girls and
PLAY!

Ode to the Red Hat Society

This delightful poem was written by RHS Founder
and Exalted Queen Mother Sue Ellen Cooper!

A poet put it very well. She said when she was older,
She wouldn’t be so meek and mild. She threatened to get bolder.
She’d put a red hat on her head, and purple on her shoulder.
She’d make her life a warmer place, her golden years much golder.
We read that poem, all of us, and grasped what she is saying.
We do not need to sit and knit, although we all are graying.
We think about what we can do. Our plans we have been laying.
Instead of working all the time, we’ll be out somewhere playing.
We take her colors to our hearts, and then we all go shopping.
For purple clothes and hats of red, with giant brims a-flopping.
We’re tired of working all the time, and staying home and mopping.
We order pies and chocolate fudge, and rich desserts with topping.
We crown ourselves as duchesses and countesses and queens.
We prove that playing dress-up isn’t just for Halloween.
We drape ourselves in jewels, feathers, boas, and sateen.
We see ourselves on television and in magazines.
We laugh, we cry, we hug a lot. We keep each other strong.
When one of us goes out for fun, the rest all go along.
We gad about, we lunch and munch, in one big happy throng.
We’ve found the place where we fit in, the place we all belong.

Who’s Ruby RedHat?

Ruby is the spirit of the little girl who lives inside all red and pink hatters. This vivacious character is the official Mascot of the RHS. Her best friends include Pearl and Jade. Ruby is always looking for new friends to add to her friendship circle!



Pearl

Jade



Ruby

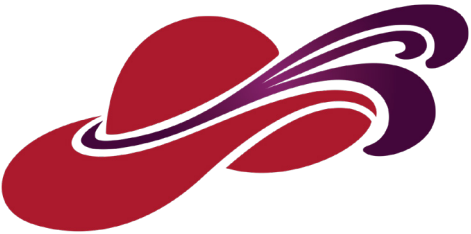
“Red Spread,” or
Taking over the World

Two “tongue-in-cheek” terms for the popularity and presence of the Red Hat Society all over the world. (Actually, we DO plan to take over the world—eventually!)

Other Customs and Traditions

There are a great many highly creative red hatters and many of them contribute ideas to HATquarters. The Red Hat Society is constantly evolving. You can be sure that we will let you know about new customs and traditions as they are adopted, and we are always open to suggestions for new ones! HATquarters loves to share ideas that sisters share with us! Send yours to Stories@RedHatSociety.com.

Red Hat Vocabulary



BECAUSE I'M THE QUEEN

This is reason enough to do anything you want — as long as it's fun and kind!

BLING

Jewelry of all shapes and sizes that impressively and brightly adorns all we wear when we are in our regalia.

EMAIL FEMAIL

Chapterette who handles chapter communications and can help those who are not tech-savvy.

GAUDY IS GOOD

Why wear one necklace when you can wear two...plus three bracelets, a brooch, and a stunning hat! This is our dress-up time: we like to go all-out!

GUTSY GALS

Our term for those courageous members who attend RHS events solo. They won't be solo for long!

HATACHES

May be caused by wearing your hat too long.

HATQUARTERS

The contact point for all RHS related business.

HATTING

Whatever a hatter does while in regalia—hatting can include grape-stomping, bungee-jumping, antiquing, shopping, enjoying tea, or anything else you want!

HATTITUDE

The proper red and pink hat spirit.

HOME CHAPTER

A Home Chapter is a member's primary chapter, providing main support and maintaining membership information.

LADIES IN WAITING

A loving term in reference to our pink hatters. See “Pink Hatters” for more information.

PAINTING THE TOWN RED

When a group of hatters go out on the town for some fun in regalia.

PASSING THE HAT

Collecting money for a special outing.

QUEENS

Queen Mother
Founder and current head of a chapter wiuth other queens in the chapter.

Chapter Queen

Founder and current head of a chapter wiuth no other queens in the chapter.

Co-Queens

A chapter may be run dually by co-queens, but to be an administrator of the chapter, each must be a registered queen.

Vice Queen

A Queen that assists with the Queen Mother with her queenly duties.

RECESS

Sometimes life can feel confining—almost like being back in school and waiting for the recess bell to ring! Hatting is our “recess,” when we go out to run around and play!

RED HATTERS MATTER!

This is one of our signature phrases, and is proclaimed at the end of official RHS events. We do matter!

RED HATTER MATTERS

The name of our digital magazine.

REGALIA

Our clothing choices when we are at play. Any shade of purple clothing with a red hat for those over 50 and any shade of lavender clothing with a pink hat for those under 50.

SCARLET SPARKLE

A serendipitous happening in the life of a hatter, which occurs because of her membership in the Red Hat Society.

SCUFFIES

Pink, fuzzy bedroom slippers that RHS mascot, Ruby RedHat wears for comfort. She has a tendency to lose them at international conventions. If you find one, there may be a reward!

SPIN-OFF CHAPTER

A new chapter formed when members branch off from an existing chapter.

THE QUEENLY WAVE

The queenly wave, which is the official RHS greeting, is performed by cupping the hand, fingers together, and ever-so gently swiveling the wrist back and forth in the direction of the adoring throng (or other hatters). Oh, so ladylike and refined, don't you agree?

THINK OUTSIDE THE HATBOX

Our phrase for getting creative!

THINK PINK

Some of our most creative and lively hatters are our pink hatters! This is our phrase to remind them to keep coming up with those crazy ideas for fun!

TRADING CARDS

A member's official calling card. Every member is invited to have her own set so that she can pass them around to all that she encounters.

PUBLIC RELATIONS, PARTNERSHIPS, & ADVERTISING

There are many ways to help spread the word about RHS – from publications, official Red Hat Society products, advertising, and more! If you'd like to get involved with this aspect of RHS, please reach out to Info@RedHatSociety.com and check out the information below!



YOUR MOMENT IN THE SPOTLIGHT: A LOOK AT PR

Did you know that somewhere in the world, an article is being written about us? It's true! The RHS is constantly monitoring our name in all forms of media to ensure the message and intent is as our members would expect. We also carefully monitor all forms of media to prevent misrepresentation by non-members.

HATquarters believes it is important that we all communicate the same message to the world so as not to confuse potential members.

Please point the media to our website to download the media kit under PRESS on the bottom website menu.

If you need assistance, contact HATquarters' Marketing Department at marketing@RedHatSociety.com. It would be our pleasure to help you.

When your article is printed or your television appearance airs, please ask for the link and make sure you send us the link, copy, or a clipping so we can share your moment in the spotlight. Send the information to marketing@RedHatSociety.com.

SHOPPING AND OFFERS

There are so many wonderful places to purchase your Official Red Hat Society merchandise!

Check them all out under the menu link titled "Shop" on RedHatSociety.com. Support the RHS global sisterhood by purchasing from the Red Hat Society shopping page.

The Red Hat Society selects products that complement and enhance our fun-loving lifestyle available on the "Shop" page on RedHatSociety.com. We invite you to shop from the comfort of your favorite armchair (with a cup of tea, of course!)

If you know of people who are taking advantage of our members and only participating as "members" to sell you something through the RHS website, do not support them. Please report them to HATquarters at info@RedHatSociety.com. If you are aware of a business that want to sell to our members refer them to info@RedHatSociety.com

RHS AMBASSADORS

Launched in 2012, the Ambassador Program is made up of a group of amazing hatters (both red and pink) who believe in the global sisterhood of the RHS and stand arm in arm with HATquarters to ensure new women learn about the Society. It's a great way to get involved and help grow the global sisterhood of the Society.

The Ambassadors attract new members to the Society, offer goodwill to all they meet, support our membership requirements, and represent RHS to the media. For this role, being comfortable with online communication is a plus.

If you are looking to get more involved in the sisterhood, HATquarters wants to talk to you! To learn more or be considered for the Ambassador Program, contact us at Ambassadors@RedHatSociety.com.

The ambassador program is not a benefit of membership. It is a volunteer position and not all who apply will be accepted. Service length is as needed with the option to withdraw at your own choice.

RHS PARTNERS

The ultimate mission of the partnerships and alliances we make with outside companies is to help keep our

membership dues low. We carefully choose partners and corporate advertisers which we feel will resonate with members.

Supporting these projects will help us keep members' fees at low levels. Please help support our efforts by supporting what we advertise. Check out our partners and advertisers on the RHS website: just click on "SHOP" at the top of the page! Partners can also advertise in the monthly newsletter – News & Notes, email blasts, social media sponsorship, event sponsorship and in the "Red Hatter Matters" magazine.

BUSINESS TO BUSINESS INQUIRIES

To maintain a consistent experience for our members and ensure the future of the RHS Brand, we require anyone who wishes to use the RHS Brand for commercial purposes to become licensed. Businesses that have products and services they want to target to RHS Members can contact HATquarters at info@RedHatSociety.com. Details of the RHS Brand are available upon request.



HOW TO SPOT AN OFFICIAL PRODUCT

Look for the official Red Hat Society logo, logo hat, or Licensing seal. If it's not on the product, it's not an official product! If you are in doubt, feel free to email info@RedHatSociety.com.

the LEGAL Stuff

(blah, blah, blah)

Red Hat Society ("RHS") Policy – Terms and Conditions

The policies contained in these terms and conditions have been implemented to protect our members and the name, identity, goodwill, brand, trademarks, copyrights, intellectual property, and vital interests of RHS. Unauthorized use of RHS intellectual property – even with good intentions – is a violation of state and federal law. Failure to comply with the terms and conditions may result in legal action by RHS. These terms and conditions are subject to amendment or revision by RHS without prior notice.

Current terms and conditions can be found at [RedHatSociety.com/membership-terms/](https://redhatsociety.com/membership-terms/)

Privacy Policy

It is RHS policy to protect the privacy and personal information of its members. RHS has created a privacy policy to explain when and how personal information is collected, used, disclosed and protected including, but not limited to, our website at [RedHatSociety.com](https://redhatsociety.com) (the "Site") and social media. By using the Site or social media you consent to the privacy practices described in this privacy policy.

Information About You

1. Membership and Transaction Information

When you become a member, RHS will collect personal information about you including your name, email, address, phone number, demographic information, and a username and password of your choice. When you purchase a product or service from RHS or purchase one of our co-branded products or services, we may also collect payment and purchasing information.

2. Submissions and Member Service

RHS occasionally performs online user surveys asking for certain forms of general information. We use this data from our surveys to help RHS support the needs of its membership. RHS may also collect information that identifies you personally when you send us member comments, questions, suggestions, job applications, resumes, or other business-related contacts.

3. Public Forums and Chapter Lists

RHS prohibits use of any information gleaned from the following including, but not limited to, chat rooms, forums, message boards, social media groups or other RHS web services for the purpose of sending unsolicited commercial emails, hate emails, or spam.

To protect the privacy of members, anyone who uses RHS communication outlets for the purpose of collecting member information or creating contact lists is prohibited. The member may be removed from all groups and volunteer programs without notice.

Use of information from any Site, social media platforms, or domain to form spam or solicitation lists of any kind is prohibited.

However, any information you disclose in these communication resources becomes public information to some extent, and you should exercise caution when deciding to disclose your personal information.

Chapter listing information is posted on the Site for the sole purpose of assisting members to communicate within RHS and is not to be used to form solicitation lists of any kind. To learn more about RHS website policies, please refer to our Website Terms and Conditions and Chapter Website Policies.

4. Automatically Collected Information

RHS automatically receives certain types of information whenever you interact with us. "Clickstream" information may be collected, which includes, but is not limited to: browsing behavior, your IP address, Site entry and exit points, search terms, website addresses visited, page views, and impressions. RHS may use cookies to collect information to determine how to improve and personalize your experience of our Site by seeing which areas and features are most popular; to allow you to visit the Site without re-entering your username or password; and to track and complete transactions you have requested. Most browsers automatically accept cookies as the default setting. You can modify browser settings to reject cookies or to prompt you before accepting a cookie. If you decide not to accept our cookies, you will still be able to access those parts of our Site available to the general public, but you may not be able to use some of the Site's features or services.

5. Notice Concerning Children

RHS is a general audience Site and does not direct any of the content specifically at children under 13 years of age. RHS understands and is committed to respecting the sensitive nature of children's privacy online. If RHS learns or has reason to suspect that a Site user is under age 13, RHS will promptly delete any personal information in that user's account unless parental permission can be obtained.

Use of Personal Information

1. Broadcasts and Messages

Email broadcasts including, but not limited to, News & Notes, Red Hatter Matters and the Friday Broadcast are sent to users who have signed up to receive it. Users may opt-out of receiving future RHS broadcasts by unsubscribing. RHS reserves the right to send you certain communications relating to your membership, such as Member Service responses and other administrative messages without offering you the opportunity to opt-out of receiving them.

2. Disclosure of Personal Information to Others

RHS does not rent, sell, or share personal information about you with other people or non-affiliated companies without your prior consent except (i) to offer you RHS, licensed, partner-provided and co-branded products and services, (ii) as necessary to complete a transaction you requested, (iii) as necessary to perform internal analysis and business functions, or (iv) when

permitted by law or to protect RHS rights or property. Third party vendors may not use or disclose your personal information for any other purpose.

3. Internal Analysis

RHS uses information collected about our chapters/ members internally to continually enhance the member experience.

4. Protection of the Red Hat Society and Others

RHS may disclose personal information in the good faith belief that we are lawfully authorized to do so, or that doing so is reasonably necessary to comply with the authorities or any legal process, respond to any claims, or to protect the rights, property or personal safety of RHS members and employees or the public.

5. Sharing Limited Personal Information

Limited personal information may be shared with members to help them find a chapter, or with prospective members so they may attend a gathering and learn more about the Red Hat Society.

By agreeing to serve as a Queen who hosts an active chapter, you consent to the sharing of basic contact information, such as your name, general location, and phone number, to allow interested members to find you and request to join your chapter.

Third-Party Sites

RHS may provide links to third-party websites from the Site as a service to our users. RHS is not responsible for the content or information collection practices of those sites. These websites' privacy policies may differ from those of RHS. Therefore, we encourage you to review and understand third-party privacy practices before providing them with information.

Network and Information Security

RHS uses commercially reasonable efforts to protect your personal information but cannot guarantee that your information will not be disclosed or accessed by accidental circumstances or by the unauthorized acts of others. Your membership information is accessible online through use of a username and password. To protect the confidentiality of personal information, you should not disclose your password or other confidential personal information. You are responsible for all uses on our Site by any person using your password. Please advise us immediately if you believe your password has been misused.

Current terms and conditions can be found at [RedHatSociety.com/membership-terms](https://redhatsociety.com/membership-terms)

Updating Personal Information

Any member may view, correct or modify her personal information by logging onto the Site and modifying her member profile.

Website Terms and Conditions

The following conditions apply to all websites, social media platforms and domains of RHS ("Sites and Domains").

1. Use of the Site, social media platforms, or domain to sell or promote any commercial product or service without prior written permission is prohibited.
2. Any information or content on the Site, social media platforms, or domain cannot be disseminated in the name of the Red Hat Society or used on any other website or printed material without prior written permission.
3. The property of RHS includes, but is not limited to, the following: the name of the Red Hat Society®, its logo, Ruby RedHat, all other intellectual property, and the contents of all Sites, social media platforms, and domains. Prior written permission is required for use. Any unethical, immoral or obscene materials, communications or website content is prohibited.
4. Use of information from any Site, social media platforms, or domain to form spam or solicitation lists of any kind beyond legitimate RHS or chapter/member communication is prohibited.
5. Use of any of the written content of any Site, social media platform or Domain on any other web site or printed material without prior written permission from The Red Hat Society. is prohibited.
6. Use of these Sites and domains and/or any other vehicle of communication provided on any Red Hat Society site or domain to harass, deliberately misinform, or deliberately mislead or confuse others is strictly prohibited.
7. Use of "The Queen Member Board," "Red Hat Chat" and/or any other vehicle of communication provided on Sites, social media platforms, and domains to harass or deliberately misinform, mislead or confuse others is prohibited.

Commercial Activity and Use of Red Hat Society Intellectual Property

Members’ personal business interests and participation in RHS must be kept separate.

Members of RHS chapters may not:

1. Engage in negotiations with any third-party on behalf of RHS.
2. Use the RHS name to sell or promote any commercial product or service. Use the name of the Red Hat Society, the Red Hat Society logo, Ruby RedHat, or any other intellectual property belonging to the Red Hat Society in conjunction with any unethical, immoral or otherwise inappropriate agencies or affiliations.
3. Distribute any type of printed materials in the name of RHS which has not been supplied or authorized by RHS.
4. Use information from redhatsociety.com or RHS social media to form email “spam” lists or solicitation lists of any kind or related to any activity or event.
5. Use their Red Hat Society affiliation or the Red Hat Society name to advertise the sale of commercial products or services.
6. Use redhatsociety.com, RHS social media, and any other vehicle of RHS communication to harass, misinform, mislead, or confuse others.
7. Violate the Event Policies of the Red Hat Society as stated on redhatsociety.com.
8. Present their chapter as part of an independent organization. A chapter must always present itself as a chapter of the RHS. If the chapter has a chapter website, the chapter name indicating its affiliation with RHS and a link to RedHatSociety.com must be prominently displayed on the first page, without any “scrolling” necessary.
9. Use their RHS affiliation to solicit membership in an organization which appears to be in direct competition with, or to be an infringement upon the intellectual property of the RHS.

If a member or chapter is interested in using RHS registered or common law trademarks or trade dress, please contact info@RedHatSociety.com for possible licensing requests.

Membership Dues

All chapters and members must ensure their membership dues are renewed annually via mail, Internet or phone payment on or before their anniversary date, which is the day a chapter or member first joined RHS. Upon renewal, members will receive the current year’s Membership kit.

If a renewal fee is not received by the expiration date, the chapter or member will lose all rights and privileges pertaining to membership.

Please visit the RHS Site at RedHatSociety.com/membership-terms/ for our current policy on untimely renewals, which is subject to change without notice. Membership fees are nonrefundable.

Event Policy

HATquarters holds international, national, and regional gatherings. We try to rotate these locations to make it easier for everyone to attend.

Because of the number of Red Hatters, we realize that we won't be able to take our show on the road to everyone as quickly as we would like. In order to spread friendship and enjoyment of each other, we encourage Red Hatters to get together groups of chapters from time to time.

Although The Red Hat Society has no rules, it has become apparent that we do need to set forward a clear policy for an event publicized in our name or to our members as “Red Hat” events. This is the only way to ensure that we remain unified and recognizable as part of one group, while avoiding exploitation of our members. Following are guidelines for any gathering associated with The Red Hat Society:

1. The hosting chapter/chapters need to notify HATquarters regarding the date and nature of the event, as well as the methods of publicity to be used. We will make every attempt to avoid scheduling one of our HATquarters-sponsored events too close in date or location to the one you are planning.
2. Any publicity must state clearly that the host is a specific CHAPTER of The Red Hat Society, not The Red Hat Society itself. If The RHS logo is used, it must be used very clearly in conjunction with the name of the CHAPTER hosting the event, so that it is abundantly clear that The RHS itself is not the host.

Example: “The Good Golly, Miss Molly” chapter of The Red Hat Society presents.”

If the name of the chapter already contains the words “Red Hat Society” as part of its name, the announcement should still make it clear that this is a CHAPTER of The RHS.

Example: “The Red Hat Society Honeys”, a CHAPTER of The Red Hat Society, presents.”

3. If other area chapters are to be invited, an announcement should be placed on the RHS Event Calendar on The Red Hat Society website.
4. If the event is to be held under The Red Hat Society name, we request that only official chapters be allowed to attend.
5. Any negotiations with outside parties including hotels, travel agencies, etc., as well as any financial guarantees required must be done in the organizer's own name/names, not in the name of The Red Hat Society.
6. The RHS is a social club, and membership is not to be seen as an opportunity for business networking. Our premise does not allow for the promotion of each other's businesses or other commercial enterprises for the profit of any individual or business. Any profit derived from an event put on by an individual chapter of the Red Hat Society must be accounted for by those putting it on to the chapter she belongs to and used for the benefit of the chapter as a whole.
7. A space needs to be made available for HATquarters travel team to promote future Red Hat Society sponsored events.
8. If you would like a representative from HATquarters to attend in person or virtually, please contact info@RedHatSociety.com

HATquarters sincerely appreciates your adherence to these guidelines. We are so happy to have you, and your friends join us in our march to take over the world.

Chapter-Sponsored Events

RHS publishes an Event Calendar to help Chapters publicize their events. This is a communication tool only, designed to support our members, and does not constitute RHS sponsorship or endorsement of the posted events. Official RHS events are planned by HATquarters and promoted on the RHS website.

- RHS Chapters may:
- Plan local events and activities which may involve other chapters or members.

- Use their specific chapter names to advertise and promote local events and activities.
- Invite guests to local events and activities to learn about RHS in anticipation of their becoming members to share the Global sisterhood of fun, freedom, friendship, fitness, and fulfillment in our global Sisterhood.

To ensure we are always promoting fun and friendship. Chapter events must not involve anything which may be considered questionable in nature and using their RHS affiliation to publicize such events.

Chapter Website and social media Policy

The following policies are part of Membership Terms and Conditions for those who wish to create Red Hat Society chapter websites or social media groups. Please review Membership Terms and Conditions in conjunction with the content herein.

1. Chapter websites must not represent the chapter as part of an independent organization.
2. It must be clear from looking at the website that it represents a chapter of the Red Hat Society and that it is not the Red Hat Society website. The chapter name indicating such affiliation and a link to redhatsociety.com must be present on the home page of the chapter website. his avoids confusion for those who are attempting to find the main Red Hat Society website.
3. A chapter should not use the poem, “Warning”, by Jenny Joseph on its website or violate copyright or trademark law in any way.
4. A chapter website may not be used to misrepresent or malign the Red Hat Society or any of its members or other chapters and must not libel or defame anyone.
5. Chapter websites must not be used for the purpose of selling goods or services. A chapter must not use the Red Hat Society name, logo, or any other copyright or trademark of the Red Hat Society on a website that sells goods or services which are not offered or licensed by The Red Hat Society.
6. There should be no direct link from a Chapter page to other websites offering goods or services aimed at members which would confuse the public to believe that such unauthorized products or services are in any way sanctioned by or affiliated with RHS.
7. A Chapter must not use the Red Hat Society name, logo, or any other copyright or trademark of The Red Hat Society on a website that sells goods or services which are not offered or licensed by RHS.
8. Chapter websites must not violate copyright or trademark laws, including but not limited to, use of RHS’ official logo.

9. Chapters are welcome to use the Red Hat Society Chapter Logo graphic on their chapter websites. The logo file is provided below.

Chapter Logo and Trademark Policy

The Red Hat Society name and logos are registered trademarks of The Red Hat Society. Our intellectual property includes, but is not limited to, our logo, the hat and sash, either the hat or sash alone, Ruby RedHat and other names and marks copyrighted by and/or trademarks of RHS.

Membership in RHS does not give a person the right or special privileges to use the name, logo, Ruby RedHat, or any other copyright or trademark other than as expressly authorized by RHS. However, membership does give an individual special privileges with respect to the use of the Red Hat Society chapter logo and trademark, as delineated in the paragraphs to follow. Any person or group that uses the Red Hat Society name, logo, chapter logo, or Ruby RedHat graphic for profit without prior written authorization by The Red Hat Society will be subject to prosecution under law.

Commercial use of our intellectual property without prior written authorization from RHS will subject the infringer to prosecution under the law. Such authorization may be obtained in appropriate circumstances by contacting HATquarters.

Chapter Logo



Any use of Red Hat Society copyrights or trademarks beyond those specified above require prior written approval from The Red Hat Society. Such permission is not regularly given but may be obtained in exceptional and appropriate circumstances by contacting the Red Hat Society HATquarters by emailing info@redhatsociety.com.

The Red Hat Society Chapter Logo may be used by members of Red Hat Society chapters on Red Hat Society chapter web sites, name tags, chapter rosters, chapter newsletters, chapter event fliers, and the like without special permission, provided that it is not used to market or endorse goods or services of any kind, used to defame the Red Hat Society in any way, or used in connection with objectionable material, as determined by The Red Hat Society. We do however specify that any chapter member using the chapter logo must include the name of her chapter above, beside or below the Red Hat Society Chapter

logo to avoid confusion. For example: “The Good Golly, Miss Molly Chapter of the Red Hat Society.”

A downloadable picture of the RHS Chapter logo graphic is available online to members. If you are a chapter queen or a member, you may download it at any time for official chapter purposes by visiting RedHatSociety.com.

Termination of Membership or Chapter

Zero Tolerance Zone:

1. Mean-spirited or “Mean Girls” behavior is grounds for immediate removal.
2. Social media behavior will be closely monitored. Negative, rude, or disrespectful attacks directed at another RHS Member, HATquarters, RHS programs, or staff will not be tolerated.
3. Any public display of the behaviors listed above is grounds for removal without notice.

Everyone is entitled to their own opinion. However, if an opinion has the potential to harm another member, HATquarters, or RHS staff, it should be kept to oneself.

Failure to comply with the terms and conditions may result in appropriate action, including but not limited, to discontinuance of any or all RHS rights, privileges and services. RHS reserves all rights to terminate membership or chapter status based on a failure to comply with any of these terms and conditions and/or for behavior which RHS determines is inconsistent with any of these terms and conditions.

If membership or chapter status is terminated, the member or chapter may no longer use any intellectual property belonging to RHS and may not use RHS colors of red/purple and pink/ lavender in combinations or any way which would confuse the public regarding association with or representation of RHS or its members.

Chapter and/or queen/membership fees will be forfeited in the case of discontinued chapter/membership status.

Use of images, videos, and quotes

By submitting content to the Red Hat Society (RHS) or by attending any RHS-sponsored event, you grant permission for RHS to use photographs, video recordings, and quotes in which you may appear. This includes images or recordings taken in public spaces, at RHS events, or on RHS-related property.

You authorize RHS and its designated representatives the irrevocable right to use, publish, reproduce, edit, and distribute these materials for any lawful purpose, including but not limited to marketing, promotion, editorial content, advertising, and educational or informational use. This permission applies across all forms of media, whether print, digital, or other formats now known or developed in the future. Your name may be used in connection with the material, but it is not required.

You acknowledge that you will not receive compensation for such use and that you waive any right to inspect or approve the final materials. You also release RHS and its representatives from any claims related to the use of your likeness, including claims arising from editing, alteration, or use in composite or promotional materials.

Updating This Policy

We reserve the right to change this policy at any time. When our privacy practices change, we will post the policy changes under terms and conditions on the Site at RedHatSociety.com/membership-terms/. We encourage you to check the Site if you are concerned about how your information is used.

Queens' Realm

FOR QUEEN MOTHERS, CHAPTER ORGANIZERS

With your new role comes special responsibilities that we know you'll be great at fulfilling! Here are some helpful tips and guidelines to get you started on forming your chapter and starting your reign! It is your role to be an inspiring and fun queen and not a negative ruler. Remember you must uphold our mission and cause in everything you do.

STARTING A NEW CHAPTER

To open a new chapter, a minimum of three members, in addition to the organizing queen, is required. This new chapter must serve as the Home Chapter for the members used to establish it. Within the first five to six months, the chapter must have a minimum of five members who list the new chapter as their Home Chapter. Accommodations may be made on a case-by-case basis as needed.

Upon formation of your chapter, you will receive a Chapter Certificate with the effective dates of the chapter. Present your certificate at the businesses and venues where you gather to educate the community that only official chapters will present a Chapter Certificate. Any other groups are not part of the Red Hat Society if they cannot produce their Certificate.

If you upgrade to a queen and start your chapter, then your chapter expiration date is rolled back to your member expiration date. For example, suppose that you became a member on June 21st and decide to upgrade to queen

on Dec 1st. Your new chapter expiration date becomes June 21st of the following year, and you retain your current member card until the chapter renewal. Your new chapter charter will be sent to you and your reign shall begin!

THE ROLE OF A QUEEN CHAPTER ORGANIZER OR QUEEN MOTHER

As queen chapter organizer, you also pledge to ensure that all your chapterettes support the sisterhood with their membership dues.

Queens are also encouraged to visit the website often and respond to messages and inquiries regarding your chapter or chapters in your area. The more often you login and respond, the more connections can be made within RHS! We thank you for being kind and welcoming to all members of the sisterhood! If your chapter is open, there are women who may want to join your chapter. They will contact you directly. It is important that you respond to their inquiries. Remember that you represent RHS, and it is important to respond in a timely and respectful manner, just as you would wish to be treated.

QUEENS AND THEIR CHAPTER

You may be starting your first chapter or renewing your current one. In either case, your primary role is simply to have fun being the Queen and to share information from HATquarters with your Chapterettes. We'll always let you know about big news first in the News & Notes monthly email and request that you share the information with your Chapterettes! **We can't emphasize enough that each Queen may assemble her chapter in any way that she likes:** you can plan all the outings yourself, ask a Chapterette to do it, and distribute "event planning opportunities" among the Chapterettes. **Whatever works for you!** We do suggest that this should involve as little actual "work" as possible. Most Queens begin by choosing another Queen

within the chapter as "Vice Queen" to help with queenly duties, such as trailing around in her finery, making pronouncements, and benevolently watching over her chapter. The use of the title "Queen" in any form requires a Queen membership, including the title of Vice Queen. Members who prefer not to maintain a Queen membership are welcome to choose an alternative title, such as Vice Chancellor. We hope to prove that, contrary to conventional wisdom, it IS easy being Queen!

CHOOSING A CHAPTER NAME

A chapter name can be just about anything you, as a group, choose. It is a name that describes the chapter's attitude. Although it sometimes seems that every name imaginable has been thought of, we hear of great ones every day. Pick whatever you like! But if you do choose the same name as another chapter (such as "Bodacious Babes") we suggest that you distinguish your chapter in some way. For more information, go to Start Your Chapter on RedHatSociety.com.

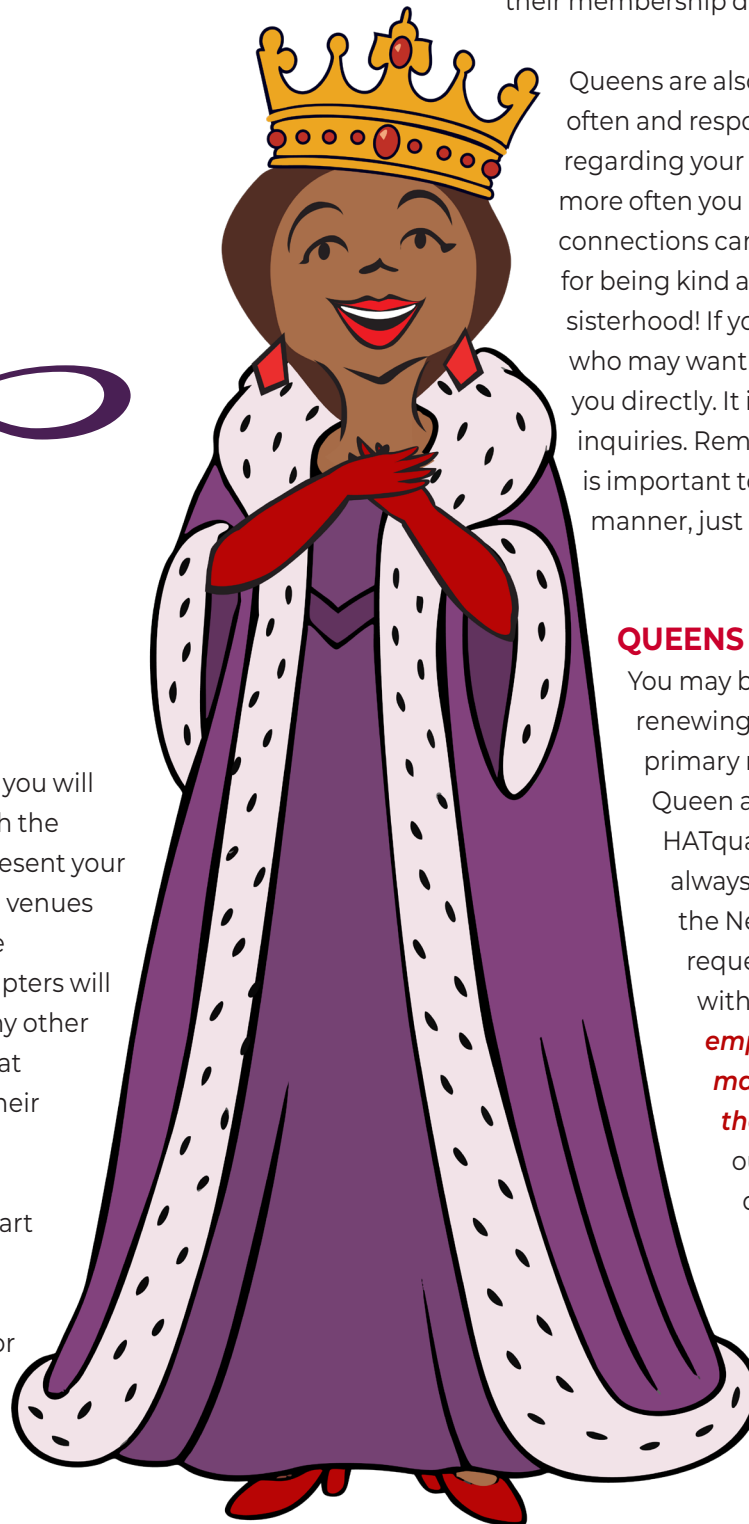
CHAPTER DESCRIPTION

Chapters have their own personality! As Queen, you have the ability to share a description of your chapter under your Chapter profile. Use this area to share anything that you want others to know about your chapter: when you meet, what you like to do, or special interests, such as scrapbooking, dancing or walking 5Ks, etc.! This will help other members and chapters that share your interests get in touch with you!

GATHERING CHAPTERETTES (OR ROYAL COURT)

There are as many ways to gather members for a chapter as there are chapter groups. Some new queens begin by calling a few friends and acquaintances together. Some chapters begin with several women who share similar interests: books, gardening, card games, or any other activity! We even know of one queen who put a sign in her car inviting interested women to contact her by email!

Others have put notices on their online neighborhood connection to invite ladies to attend an open enrollment gathering. RHS merely requests that each woman who



joins in on the fun be registered as an official member of the international Red Hat Society first. She is then free to participate within chapters.

When considering new members, recruit positive and supportive women who are truly looking for more fun and friendship in their lives and who you believe will share the values of the RHS. You can learn a lot about the member through her profile and messages. She learns about you and your chapter through messages, your profile and chapter description. Explain the privilege and benefits of being an RHS member. You may also take advantage of video conferencing to get to know a new member. Make sure she understands what her role is within the Society. If a member does not use a computer, encourage her to find a buddy (email femail) who will keep her up to date on RHS news. Share with them all the benefits of membership as we find that once women understand just how much they can connect to others, then the real fun begins. The HATquarters team of the RHS wants each member to feel connected to the organization. She must understand and be excited about being a part of an international sisterhood committed to fun and friendship.

We recommend that a member other than the Queen Mother serve in a treasurer-type role to help ensure transparency in the chapter's financial matters.

Remember, as queen, you may appear on another Queen's roster. There can be multiple Queens in a chapter but only one Queen is the organizer of the chapter or the chapter "Queen Mother".

CHAPTER SIZE

Many Queens choose to appoint another registered Queen to serve as Vice Queen and share in the joys and responsibilities of leadership. From trailing around in her finery and making pronouncements to benevolently watching over the chapter, the Queen and Vice Queen work together to prove that, contrary to conventional wisdom, it really is easy being Queen!

CHAPTER OUTINGS (AND IN-INGS)

The task of planning events should not fall on the queen alone. One of the easiest ways to arrange events is to have

each member pick a month and assume responsibility for planning the event and notifying members by invitation, phone or email. (However, if a different arrangement works better for your chapter, go for it!)

Although RHS chapters often prefer to make public appearances, it is a good idea to occasionally plan a potluck, game night, perhaps a pajama breakfast, at someone's home or whatever creative activity you choose to do. This can serve the purpose of deepening friendships and allowing time to discuss ideas regarding the future of the chapter, as well as keeping everyone in close touch.

Though known for our fabulous tea parties, dancing and beautiful displays of fun, red and pink hatters love to get creative: they've been known to gather in full regalia for a video conferencing craft session, stomp grapes at wineries, tour bread factories, puzzle their way out of an escape room, learn line-dances, and turn things up with live entertainment! Get-togethers can last for one hour or an entire weekend.

YOUR FIRST GET-TOGETHER

Red Hat Society chapters do not have "meetings." The very word gives us chills! We much prefer get-togethers, events, gatherings, outings, and anything that sounds like "party." You begin shaping your chapter at your first get-together. Take some time to get to know one another, get everyone registered, bestow royal titles upon yourselves and make a wish list of future events you'd like to plan.

If you do not personally have an email address, please select one of your members (we call her an "Email Femail") to be the official chapter contact and add her email address to the chapter record, so you and your members don't miss a thing! This is very important because email is the primary way that HATquarters communicates with queens and members.

At your first get-together, we suggest that you discuss topics such as what activities to enjoy, how large you want your chapter to grow, when you will gather and how often. This gathering will mark the beginning of your chapter's adventures. May there be many, many more to come!

CHAPTER DUES (OPTIONAL)

Although most chapters DO NOT require local chapter dues, there are some queens who collect a small amount of money from their members to be used for miscellaneous chapter costs (gifts, party favors, postage for mailings, etc.) This is sometimes referred to as "passing the hat." If money is collected for the local chapter, it is understood that all chapterettes will ensure that they are current members of the Society BEFORE local chapter funds are requested.

Please consider what will happen to any funds if the chapter disbands or members who have contributed leave the chapter. If you decide to open a chapter checking account, it must be considered a personal account; we suggest two to three signers be required. Many banks call these "garden club" or "Christmas" accounts—check with your local banking institution to see what kind of account will work best for the chapter. The chapter checking account must be in the name of the chapter, not "The Red Hat Society." It's important that the members who contribute (no matter how big or small the amount) agree on everything regarding the handling of chapter funds. Please remember, chapter play money is just that: funds for fun right where you are!

SPIN-OFF CHAPTERS

The creation of Spin-Off chapters is a natural phenomenon of RHS growth. If a chapter becomes too large, some of the members may choose to start another chapter, with one of them becoming a new queen. Many queens make it a point to help mold more "Queens of Tomorrow" within their areas. They start their chapters with the intention of spreading the fun by developing many queens out of their current chapterettes. Many groups find that spinning off into a new chapter can actually help spread the fun around!

Sharing the sisterhood with women in your area, developing an amazing network of queens who share your enthusiasm and building more fun for all is a noble and exciting part of being a part of the Red Hat Society.

Spin-offs can also occur when a group finds that some of its members want to have fun in different ways or during different times of day than others. A new chapter may be

formed to fulfill these differing needs: that way, no one has to miss out on the fun!

Example: Perhaps, over time, a few members discover that they want to play cards every time they get together and have little interest in going out to lunch and the theater like the other chapter members do. Rather than let these members fade away, you, as queen, can suggest that they start their own chapter, pick a queen and gather other card-playing members into their group. Members have access to tools available to them to find a new chapter or to start their own. Of course, your chapter may continue to keep in touch through RHS HATquarters events, social media, or other multi-chapter events.

Note: Spin-Off chapters should not take on the original chapter's name. They also require an individual queen membership or chapter upgrade.

WHEN YOUR CHAPTER IS FULL (PLEASE NO WAITING LIST!)

If your chapter is not interested in adding new members, you may indicate that status in your chapter profile. Even so, you may still be contacted by women interested in joining your chapter (it's not your fault that you're popular!).

You are not required to add new members unless you choose to do so; however, we ask that you respond to all inquiries. If you are unable to add another member, please refer her to HATquarters by email at MemberServices@RedHatSociety.com, to your local RHS Ambassador, or to another chapter in your area that may be open to new members. Ambassadors will make a good-faith effort to assist in identifying available options when possible.

If you are contacted outside of the website by a non-member and are unable to welcome her into your chapter, please do not establish a waiting list.

After all, no one wants to be told to "wait to have fun." HATquarters can help guide interested women toward joining RHS, locating an open chapter when available, or starting one of their own. While placement cannot be guaranteed, we are committed to helping every woman feel welcomed and

supported. Please refer her to RedHatSociety.com or MemberServices@RedHatSociety.com so no one is left feeling excluded.

ATTENDANCE

In the laissez-fare spirit of the RHS, there is no official roll call required at gatherings. Some chapters expect their members to attend as many events as possible. Some prefer to let members show up as often, or as rarely, as they choose. Your chapter is free to set your own parameters here. As royalty, we do have etiquette to follow, and the importance of the RSVP cannot be over-emphasized. We recommend that the event hostess set a date by which all attendees must respond in order to be included in any specific function. This is common courtesy and will make planning much easier for the organizers.

ROYAL ACADEMY

Additional resources are available to help both new and existing chapters succeed, including an optional online training program featuring tips and insights from experienced Queens and Ambassadors. Participation in this program is not required. Upon completion, the Queen will receive a certificate of completion. For more information, visit RedHatSociety.com/royal-academy.

Features will include mini-lessons, examples of real tips from current Queens and Ambassadors and quick activity suggestions. Topics will include but are not limited to:

- Defining the role of a Queen
- Growing Membership
- Validating and Supporting Members
- Organizing Gatherings
- Event Coordination
- Promoting Red Hat Society Values
- Leadership Skills
- Sustaining a Vibrant Chapter

ALL QUEENS ARE EQUAL AND THEIR CHAPTERETTES ARE IMPORTANT

All queens in the Red Hat Society are equal and every queen is special to HATquarters. We actively strive to create a global Society without borders.

In some areas, groups of queens have formed individual “Queen Councils” for the purpose of sharing ideas and broadening friendships, but all members of such councils are equal. Find out more about Queens’ Councils below.

All members are created equal. HATquarters hopes that each queen will ensure that her chapterettes don’t feel they are “just a member,” but rather an integral part of the Society.

QUEEN CHANGE

So, you’ve decided to give another member the ability to take over as queen of your existing chapter. Not a problem! It is best to do so at the time of chapter renewal. Please email HATquarters at chapterapproval@RedHatSociety.com and we will be happy to help you. To enable a smooth transition, we prefer that the outgoing queen contact Member Services to make the change, as we generally cannot do so without her permission. *(Special circumstances may require accommodations on a case-by-case basis.)* Once the outgoing queen has called, the chosen member may call to upgrade to queen and set up her own information in the chapter record.

After the queen change is completed, the outgoing queen retains her RHS Queen membership. The outgoing queen may claim the title of FQM (Founding Queen Mother).

The incoming queen must be a member with queen status. Her membership gives her full access to manage her chapter and all other benefits. The existing renewal date of the chapter becomes the new renewal date of the incoming queen.

If a Queen is unable or unwilling to continue leading her chapter for any reason, the Vice Queen will typically assume the role to ensure continuity. Chapters may choose a different successor through a chapter vote if they wish. A change in Queen leadership does not dissolve the chapter: the chapter continues uninterrupted under new leadership. HATquarters is available to assist with this transition and help ensure a smooth handoff.

Queens may manage and operate their chapters at their discretion, provided all Red Hat Society guidelines, policies, and membership requirements are followed.

QUEENS’ COUNCILS OR QUEEN ROUNDTABLES

Purpose: The purpose of a Queens’ Council is to work with HATquarters and Ambassadors to strengthen membership within the chapters. Furthermore, councils strongly stand behind the guidelines and policies set forth by HATquarters to ensure the global sisterhood of the Society.

Queens’ Councils are chapters of the Society. All participating queens’ memberships must be in good standing and those of her chapterettes. These gatherings are benevolent groups made up of active queens of the RHS: chapter queens, co-queens, and vice queens. Those thinking about becoming a queen may attend one queen council gathering. A separate chapter fee is required.

These councils meet at-will or on a regular basis to make new friends, share ideas and information from HATquarters, to provide mentoring, plan and coordinate events, give feedback to HATquarters and to network. They are non-policy setting.

A Queens’ Council chapter is started the same as a chapter. After registering as the organizing queen, ensure that the chapter name includes “QC” in the title. This enables the RHS to recognize an official Queens’ Council within the Society. The QC chapter belongs to the queen who registers it and is the HATquarters contact. If the group wishes, the position of day-to-day leadership may be held by one queen or by several queens in rotation. The chapter roster is maintained by the organizing queen, and her role is to add active area queens. The queen may use the features of the website to message and connect with active participants and post QC events to the RHS Online Event Calendar.

Members of a Queens’ Council are not employees of the RHS or RHS policy makers. They are queens of the RHS who continue to uphold the mission and values of the Society. Joining a Queens’ Council is perfect for a new queen. You’ll learn from the best. It’s also a great tool for the long-time queen to help her bring fresh ideas back to her chapter. And Queens’ Councils are just another red and pink hat way to make new friends.

Please note: Queen councils do not make policy or rules for other chapters. Each chapter queen rules over her own Queendom. These queens may be part of the Queen council but are not under the rule of the Queen council. Queens’ Councils cannot demand that members or

queens not support other chapters or events. Queens Councils that are found to be in violation of these policies may be terminated and removed.

MULTI-CHAPTER EVENTS

To connect with nearby chapters and make new friends, many chapters organize regional gatherings, sometimes called Funventions. Queens may post multi-chapter events on the RHS website event calendar. These events are designed to bring members together for fun while meeting hatters from other chapters. Policies related to these events are available on the RHS website and in the legal section of this handbook. If you are interested in planning an event using the RHS event calendar, please visit RedHatSociety.com for more information.

Multi-chapter events are for members-only and support licensed vendors. Queens have the privilege to post their events on the calendar.

EVENT REQUESTS, SPECIAL PROCLAMATIONS

Did you know that HATquarters may be able to send a staff representative to your next event? For details and guidelines, please email info@RedHatSociety.com

You may also request virtual attendance via Zoom or FaceTime. We truly enjoy meeting your members and personally sharing our appreciation for the wonderful women of the Red Hat Society.

Depending on availability, we would love to be one of your keynote speakers and make ourselves available to the attendees. We can’t wait to learn when your next great event will be. What’s on your calendar?

We can also provide personal assistance by emailing a Proclamation in honor of a special chapter anniversary, a member celebration or provide a fresh “State of the Sisterhood” update for your event! Email requests 3 weeks in advance of the event. Please email requests to info@RedHatSociety.com if your chapter would like to sponsor a HATquarters representative or would like a Proclamation for your next event.

THE ONE MINUTE MESSAGE

It’s said that true Hatters “walk the walk and talk the talk!” Here are examples of easy ways to speak about familiar topics.

The Red Hat Society is one of the largest women's play groups in the world! We are a global society of women that connects and supports women in their pursuit of fun, friendship, and sisterhood.

Since our inception in 1998, the Red Hat Society and our Members have sought to gain higher positive visibility for women and continue to reshape the way women are viewed by today's culture.

IDEAS FOR HOSTING A MEET & GREET TO RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS

This basic formula can be tailored to suit events held in homes, at community centers, for networking opportunities or anywhere someone has expressed an interest in starting a chapter or joining as a member. Remember to strive for a simple, economical approach!

- Set up a table using our colors.
- Provide light refreshments, if appropriate.
- For decorations, anything red or purple works: from red apples to purple balloons. Add a hat or a few boas to the table and you have a pretty display.
- Have your ladies dress in the full range of regalia, from very casual to over-the-top! Wearing all shades of our colors is great, too. This lets potential ladies know that all manners of dress are acceptable. Some ladies love to play dress up while some are put off by the idea, so knowing that they'll be accepted as they are does a world of good!
- At your event, tell your guests about the RHS and share the basics.
- Invite your guests to join the RHS by giving them a referral card and directions for signing up online. Or, for the non-computer users, give them a referral card and an application to mail in. (Referral cards and applications are available to print from the RHS website.)
- To advertise your event, you can use private email lists, the RHS CONTACT CHAPTER search, RHS online calendar, RHS Discussion boards, E-vites, Facebook, social media, and local free publications. You can even hang notices or put a sign in your car with your email address as a contact or use any other venue that is appropriate in your area.

The goal of all recruiting efforts is to bring in and connect potential members to the Red Hat Society, using as few resources as possible. Actually, we think it's going to be quite a fun challenge!

FAIRS

RHS representation at a public fair is great fun and we garner a lot of attention. If there is no place for an information table, have a small stack of referral cards handy to give to those inquiring souls who say, "Who are you fun-loving ladies?"

Remember to also keep a notebook handy to collect contact information of the ladies who want to know more. Generally, people will forget to reach out to you, so try taking the initiative and contact the potential member with an invitation to your next gathering.

MALL CRAWL

A Mall Crawl is exactly what it sounds like. You gather with your area hatters at the mall to enjoy a day of munching, shopping and attracting new members. First, you select a location, date and time then contact the Mall's Administration to let them know that you plan to gather, lunch at the food court and shop. Once that's set up, put the word out to invite other members through your private lists, RHS contact chapter search, RHS calendar, QMBs, E-vites, FaceBook, and other social media.

Ask the Mall Administration if you may use a table at the Food Court as a Membership information table. Here is where you would be available for an hour or so to answer questions about the RHS.

The Mall's Administration may also be willing to notify the stores in the mall to encourage them display their best Red & Purple and Pink & Lavender items in their windows or to share if perhaps there are any discounts available. Remember to use your best hattitude and you will be welcomed back with open arms!

Ambassadors' Briefing

Dear Red Hat Society Ambassador,

Welcome to a new adventure! We are thrilled that you will play an important part in the RHS Ambassador Program. Our ambassadors have become an essential part of what has become one of the largest women's movements, a society dedicated to connecting and supporting women through its global sisterhood. The Red Hat Society and our Members are reshaping the way women are viewed by today's culture and having fun doing it! The RHS is a place where women from diverse walks of life unite, are royalty every day, open their hearts to share, support and care for one another and a place where fun reigns supreme!

With your help, we now invite you to place your Red or Pink Hat on your head and explore a new beginning filled with exciting opportunities, information, fun and above all else enduring friendships. Let our journey begin!

The Ambassadors attract new members to the Society, offer goodwill to all they meet, support our membership requirements, and represent RHS to the media. For this role, being comfortable with online communication is a plus.

The ambassador program is not a requirement of membership. It is a volunteer position and not all who apply will be accepted. Service length is as needed with the option to withdraw at your own choice.

Ambassador attendance is required at at least one quarterly Zoom gathering. Special accommodations are available upon request.

QUEENS ROUNDTABLES

As an Ambassador you may attend Queen Councils or organize one in your area to help build relationships and foster better communications within the society.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

We also rely on Ambassadors to:

- ★ Assist members and potential members in finding a chapter to join.
- ★ Assist at the RHS Membership booth at Women's Conferences, focus groups or other local HATquarters outreach events
- ★ Be a resource for Queens
- ★ Be a Liaison between Queens/ Members and HATquarters
- ★ Participate in studies or surveys
- ★ Be a presence in social media platforms
- ★ With direction, attend and speak for the RHS at television, radio, or other public events
- ★ Assist with special projects from HATquarters



CONTACT

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