

# **National Association of Teachers of Singing, Inc. Arkansas Chapter Bylaws**

## **PREAMBLE**

In compliance with its chartered rights and obligations, the Arkansas Chapter of NATS is subject to the rules contained in the National Association of Teachers of Singing, Inc. Articles of Association and Bylaws and the following Arkansas Chapter Bylaws: (Adopted November 13, 2009)

## **ARTICLE 1**

### **Title, Purpose, and Organization**

#### Section 1. Title

The name of the organization is the National Association of Teachers of Singing Arkansas Chapter, hereinafter referred to as the Chapter.

#### Section 2. Purpose

The Chapter exists to encourage the highest standards of the vocal art and ethical principles in the teaching of singing, and to promote vocal education and research for the enrichment of the general public and the professional advancement of the vocal talent of the state of Arkansas.

#### Section 3. Organization

- a. The Chapter of not fewer than ten active members is designated as a non-profit educational association organized under the Not for Profit Corporation Act of the state of Arkansas.
- b. The Chapter establishes its own bylaws and operating procedures within the limits of the national bylaws. It elects its officers and reports their names and full addresses to the Regional Governor.
- d. The Chapter may establish one or more local student chapters.

## **Article 2 Membership**

### **Section 1. Classification**

The national Association approves membership for three membership classifications. For Arkansans, membership in the national Association brings membership in the Arkansas Chapter.

- a. Full members are persons of known personal probity whose professional training and experience qualify them to be teachers of singing or vocal coaches. Full members may vote and hold Chapter office.

b. Emeritus members are active NATS members who have attained their 68<sup>th</sup> birthday and been members in good standing for 20 or more years. Emeritus members are not required to pay dues and cannot hold elective office at any level of the organization.

c. Associate members are persons of known personal probity who are beginning teachers of singing with professional training, or advanced students of singing. They may attend Chapter conferences and enter students in Chapter auditions. They may not hold office or vote.

#### Section 2. Chapter Membership

Membership in the Arkansas Chapter is contingent upon and accompanies NATS Association current membership in good standing.

#### Section 3. Termination of Membership

The Chapter may request that the Association suspend or expel a member who violates any of the Association Bylaws or Code of Ethics, or whose conduct is deemed to be detrimental to the welfare and best interests of the Association and the Chapter.

#### Section 4: Resignation

Members in good standing may resign in good standing from the Chapter by submitting a letter of resignation to the president, who then will remove that member from the active membership roll and notify the Association.

#### Section 5: Reinstatement

Chapter members who resign in good standing may reactivate their membership by requesting this action and paying current dues to the national office.

### **ARTICLE 3 Meeting and Voting Procedures**

#### Section 1. Meetings

The Chapter meets during the fall Southern Region conference and spring Arkansas state conference.

#### Section 2. Quorum

At conference meetings of the Chapter, a quorum consists of 51% percent of members registered for and present at the conference.

#### Section 3. Canvass Voting

When necessary, the Chapter may vote by e-mail. In such an instance, the vote is valid upon receipt of ballots from two-thirds of the membership.

## **ARTICLE 4**

### **Officers**

#### Section 1. Offices

- a. The four elected Chapter officers consist of a President, President-elect, Secretary, and Treasurer. These serve two-year terms.
  
- b. The Auditions Chair serves through appointment by and under the direction of the elected officers. The normal term of office is the two years concurrent with officer terms of office. The elected officers may reappoint the auditions chair.
  
- a. The Arkansas Governor is appointed by the Southern Region Governor to serve as the board's representative to the chapter and is not an elected Chapter officer.

#### Section 2. Elections

Prior to the spring Chapter meeting that occurs in even-numbered years, the president appoints a three-member committee to nominate a new president, president-elect and secretary, and also a new treasurer if necessary. The president presents the slate of nominees for election at the Chapter business meeting. Members may submit additional nominations from the floor. A simple majority of all votes cast results in election. Newly elected officers take office at the close of the conference.

#### Section 3. Vacancies

Officers cease to hold office when they fulfill their terms of office, terminate their membership, or resign. They may be removed from office with due cause by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any regular meeting of the chapter. The president is empowered to fill vacant offices by appointment until the next scheduled meeting.

#### Section 4. President

- a. The president serves as the chief executive officer of the Chapter by presiding at all business meetings and fulfilling other Chapter leadership responsibilities consistent with these Bylaws.
  
- b. The president administers policies adopted by the membership and appoints all committees.
  
- c. The president administers audits of the Chapter financial records at the annual region and state conferences and at other times when he or she deems them to be necessary. Audits are open to the membership.

#### Section 5. President-Elect

The president-elect assists the president and normally is elected to the office of president at the next election.

#### Section 6. Secretary

The secretary keeps accurate minutes and records of Chapter proceedings and presents copies of these minutes at Chapter business meetings. The secretary also conducts correspondence and other record-keeping duties when necessary. The secretary may be re-elected.

#### Section 7. Treasurer

The Treasurer maintains the financial records of the Chapter, including receipts and disbursements. These include teacher and student conference registration fees and awards, payment of conference-related expenses, and financial transactions with the national office. All financial records are open to the membership. The treasurer may be re-elected.

#### Section 8. Auditions Chair

The auditions chair administers all aspects of the Chapter student auditions under the supervision of the four elected officers.

### **ARTICLE 5 Financial Procedures**

At each fall regional conference Chapter business meeting, the officers recommend and the members approve the fee schedule and general spending practices for the coming spring state conference. Special expenditures and bequests, such as gifts to the NATS Foundation, also require membership approval.

### **ARTICLE 6 Rules of Procedure, Order of Business, and Amendment of Bylaws**

#### Section 1. Rules of Procedure

Robert's Rules of Order (latest revised edition) governs all meetings unless it is suspended by a two-thirds vote of the members present.

#### Section 2. Order of Business

The general order of business at all meetings is as follows, unless amended by a majority vote of the members present:

- a. Presentation of the minutes
- b. Officer and committee reports
- c. Unfinished business
- d. New business
- e. Report of nominating committee, if applicable

#### Section 3. Amendment of Bylaws

Bylaws may be amended and new bylaws adopted at the annual state chapter meeting by a two-thirds approval vote of all full and emeritus members present.