

**BYLAWS OF THE NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF SCIENCE
(Approved 7/2021)**

ARTICLE I

NAME

Section 1: The name of this organization shall be Nebraska Association of Teachers of Science (abbreviated as NATS).

Section 2: It is a chapter of the National Science Teachers Association.

Section 3: It is an independent organization that affiliates with the Nebraska Academy of Sciences (NAS).

Section 4: The NATS Past Presidents group is a division of NATS.

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE

Section 1: The purpose of NATS shall be the advancement, stimulation, growth, improvement, and coordination of science teaching in all fields of science and at all educational levels in Nebraska.

Section 2: NATS shall not engage in any activity which would be inconsistent with the status of an educational, charitable, and scientific organization as defined in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code of 1986 or any successor provision thereto.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Any person interested in science education in the state of Nebraska is eligible for membership in NATS, and may join by paying the annual dues.

Section 2: NATS shall maintain a policy of nondiscrimination and equal opportunity in membership, support, engagement, and employment.

Section 3: The Board of Directors reserves the right to terminate membership of any member with or without cause by a majority vote of the board.

Section 4: The term of membership shall begin at the annual fall conference each year and expire at the beginning of the annual fall conference the next year.

ARTICLE IV

OFFICERS

Section 1: The officers of the organization shall be the President, the President-elect, the Past-president, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and six Members-at-large.

Section 2: Only those members of the organization directly involved in science education within the state of Nebraska shall be eligible to hold office or serve as chairperson of a standing committee.

Section 3: The officers and ex-officio members of NATS shall constitute the Board of Directors (or Board).

Section 4: Ex-officio members of the Board are NAS President (or designee), the President of Nebraska Junior Academy of Sciences (NJAS), the science education consultant of the Nebraska

Department of Education, and the NATS Historian. Ex-officio members are non-voting members of the board.

ARTICLE V

DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

- Section 1:** Except as otherwise provided in the Bylaws, the duties of the various officers shall be those which are customary for such officers.
- Section 2:** The President shall preside at all business sessions and all meetings of the Board of Directors. The President shall appoint standing committee chairpersons subject to ratification of the Board of Directors. The President, under the direction of the Board of Directors, shall have the general charge of the affairs of NATS.
- Section 3:** The President-elect shall perform the duties of the president in his/her absence.
- Section 4:** The Past-president shall perform the duties of the president in the absence of the President and President-elect.
- Section 5:** The Secretary shall keep an accurate record of the proceedings of the organization and of the Board of Directors.
- Section 6:** The Treasurer shall keep an accurate record of the finances of the organization. The Treasurer shall provide a financial report at each meeting of the Board of Directors and be responsible for all tax communications and preparations.
- Section 7:** The Members-at-large shall represent the general membership of NATS on the Board of Directors.
- Section 8:** The Board of Directors shall transact the business, plan the overall program, make recommendations regarding proposed amendments to the bylaws, and devise and carry out measures for the growth and welfare of the organization.

Article VI

COMPENSATION AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- Section 1:** No Board Member will be compensated for their service to the board except as follows:
- a) When in service to the function of the board, such as attending meetings or conferences, Board Members may request reimbursement for reasonable travel costs (such as mileage, airfare, meals, hotel accommodations, conference fees, etc).
 - b) All reimbursements are subject to approval by the officers.
 - c) Whenever possible, expenses must be pre-approved.
- Section 2:** Whenever a director has a financial or personal interest in any matter coming before the board of directors, the affected person shall a) fully disclose the nature of the interest and b) withdraw from discussion, lobbying, and voting on the matter. Any transaction or vote involving a potential conflict of interest shall be approved only when a majority of disinterested directors determine that it is in the best interest of the association to do so. The minutes of meetings at which such votes are taken shall record such disclosure, abstention and rationale for approval.

ARTICLE VII

COMMITTEES AND DIVISIONS

- Section 1:** Committees shall be established by the Board of Directors each year to carry out the functions and objectives of the organization.
- Section 2:** Standing committees of this organization shall be the Program Committee, the Nominating Committee, the Budget and Finance Committee and the Auditing Committee.
- Section 3:** The Program Committee shall plan the annual conference of NATS.
- Section 4:** The Nominating Committee shall prepare and present a slate of nominees to the membership prior to the annual business meeting when officers are to be elected. The Past-president shall be the chairperson of the Nomination Committee.
- Section 5:** The Budget and Finance Committee shall be responsible for preparing a yearly budget for approval by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall be the chairperson of the Finance Committee.
- Section 6:** The Auditing Committee will review all financial transactions each year and report to the Board. The Past President shall be the chairperson of the auditing committee.
- Section 7:** As a division, the NATS Past Presidents group shall provide advice, historical context, and support to extend the mission of NATS. Membership of the division is limited to those who have served as president and are in good standing with NATS, including the current NATS Past-President, President, and President-Elect. The division may choose their own leadership, meetings, and will select the NATS Historian each year.

ARTICLE VIII

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

- Section 1:** Any member in good standing who qualifies to hold office may submit their name to the nominating committee for election to the board. The nominating committee shall review submitted applications, examine qualifications, and recommend names from those submitted for inclusion on the ballot.
- Section 2:** Elections of officers shall occur at the annual conference of NATS. Election shall be by majority vote of the members and conducted by ballot.
- Section 3:** The Secretary, Treasurer, and six Members-at-large shall hold office for three years. The President-elect, President, and Past-president shall hold office for one year. After one year the President-elect assumes the office of President and the President assumes the office of Past-president. The term of office for all elected members shall begin at the conclusion of the annual fall conference during which they were elected.
- Section 4:**
- a) To maintain equitable representation across the state of Nebraska, the members-at-large shall be divided into three regions.
 - 1) The East Region shall consist of school districts within ESU 3, 18, and 19.
 - 2) The Central Region shall consist of school districts within ESU 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8.
 - 3) The West Region shall consist of school districts within ESU 9, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16, and 17.
 - b) Elections to these regions will be staggered and on a three-year rotation with one member at large elected each year from each of the following regions:

Year 1: West and Central regions. Year 2: West and East regions. Year 3: East and Central regions.

- c) To be eligible to represent a region, candidates must live or work within the boundaries of said region. If, during their term in office, a member-at-large changes region eligibility they will finish their term as a representative of their original region. The member-at-large will NOT be eligible for re-election as a member-at-large in their new region per Article 8 Sec 4.
- d) If no eligible candidate for a region presents themselves for election, the president will appoint an eligible candidate from the region with the approval of the board.

Section 5: An interval of three years shall lapse before an officer is again eligible for re-election to the same office.

Section 6: Any vacancy on the Board of Directors will be appointed by the President, with approval of the Board of Directors, for the remainder of the term of office. If the appointment is for less than one-half of the original term of office, the appointed individual will be eligible for re-election to the same position.

Section 7: The Board may remove any Board Member for cause by two-thirds (2/3) vote of all Directors then in office, at any regular or special meeting of the Board, provided that a statement of the reason or reasons shall have been mailed by Registered Mail to the Board Member proposed for removal at least thirty (30) days before any final action is taken by the Board. This statement shall be accompanied by a notice of the time when, and the place where, the Board is to take action on the removal. The Board Member shall be given an opportunity to be heard and the matter considered by the Board at the time and place mentioned in the notice.

ARTICLE IX **MEETINGS**

There shall be an annual business meeting of NATS. This meeting will be held in conjunction with the Fall conference. The president may call meetings as deemed necessary.

ARTICLE X **QUORUM**

A majority of the officers of Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for conducting business.

ARTICLE XI **DUES**

Section 1: The annual dues shall be set by the Board of Directors.

Section 2: Annual dues shall be payable with registration for the annual fall conference or upon application for membership anytime throughout the year.

Section 3: Attendance fees for events shall be set by the Board of Directors for all members and non-members.

ARTICLE XII **FISCAL YEAR**

The fiscal year will be from January 1 through December 31 of each year.

ARTICLE XIII **INDEMNIFICATION**

Members of the Board, former members of the Board, association staff, and officially constituted committees, and councils of the association, individually and collectively, shall be indemnified and held harmless by the association in any action alleging injury or damage, direct or consequential, arising out of the performance of their duties, except where such members are adjudged guilty of willful misconduct.

ARTICLE XIV **AMENDMENTS**

Section 1: Proposed amendments may be submitted by the Board of Directors.

Section 2: A proposed amendment may be submitted by a signed petition from ten (10) percent of the membership and then shall be submitted to the membership for adoption or rejection.

Section 3: These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of members at any regular meeting, providing a copy of the proposed amendment shall have been sent to every member at least ten days before the vote.

Section 4: These Bylaws may be amended at any meeting without previous notice by a two-thirds vote of the total membership.

Section 5: These Bylaws may be amended at any time by a two-thirds majority of voting members by written ballot providing a copy of the proposed amendment shall have been sent to every member.

Section 6: Non-technical, non-substantive edits to the Bylaws may be made by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XV **PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

In all questions of Parliamentary Law not covered by the Bylaws, Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall prevail.

ARTICLE XVI **DISSOLUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION**

In the event of termination or dissolution of NATS. All remaining assets shall be distributed as directed by the Board of Directors, to organizations that are interested in science education and that are exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code of 1986 (or successor provision thereto). In no event shall any of the assets of NATS, upon dissolution, go or be distributed to individual members, or for any other purpose, it being the intent that the assets owned by NATS, upon dissolution, be devoted to the carrying on of scientific education through the investigation and dissemination of scientific knowledge.

Bylaws passed membership vote and recorded 7/21/2021

49 Yeas

3 Nays