

BY LAWS OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA STATE POETRY SOCIETY, INC.

Revised April 24, 2010

ARTICLE I

MEMBERSHIP

- A. CHARTER MEMBERS are those who were present at the organization meeting of the Society at Huron, October 5, 1927; and those persons who may have become members prior to January 1, 1928.
- B. REGULAR MEMBERS shall be persons who have paid the annual dues to the South Dakota State Poetry Society (honorary members excepted).
- C. SUSTAINING MEMBERS shall be those who, in addition to paying membership dues, make substantial gifts to the Society, the amount to be determined from time to time by the Board. The classification to apply during the year in which the gift is made.
- D. HONORARY MEMBERS shall comprise a select group: those who after having enjoyed 25 or more years of continuous adult membership and having reached the age of 75 years may, upon application, become classified as honorary members. They shall have full membership privileges and may receive *PASQUE PETALS* without further obligation. Poets Laureate shall automatically be so classified.
- E. JUNIOR MEMBERS shall be a classification to apply especially to young writers of verse under 18 years of age who, upon payment of lesser annual dues (Amount to be determined from time to time by the Board), may become identified with the Society but without voting privilege until eligible for adult membership, and upon payment of dues.

ARTICLE II

OFFICERS

Section 1

The officers of the corporation shall include the president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer. Members of the board of directors may include the editor or editors of *PASQUE PETALS*, the editor and past editors of *PASQUE PETALS*. If not elected to the board as active members, they shall be classified as ex-officio members of the board.

Section 2

The officers of the corporation must be board members and shall be elected by the board of directors.

Section 3

The officers of the corporation shall be considered the executive committee and shall have the authority to manage and direct the affairs of the corporation between board meetings.

Section 4

The board of directors shall have the power to appoint the editor of *PASQUE PETALS*, and the publisher of *PASQUE PETALS*. These people may or may not be directors or officers.

Section 5

The officers of the corporation shall exercise such power and discharge such duties as are normally incident to their office, and shall carry out such other duties as requested by the board of directors.

Section 6

The officers of the corporation shall make such periodic reports of the activities and status of the organization as requested by the board or the membership, of which a typewritten or electronic copy should be submitted to the secretary for filing.

ARTICLE III

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1

The board of directors shall consist of from eleven to fifteen members and shall be responsible for the general supervision and management of the business of the corporation. They shall organize immediately after the annual meeting and choose the officers provided for in Article II, hereof, and shall have power to appoint such committees as may seem necessary for attainment of objectives of the corporation. Absent members may vote by proxy, or – if the board directs – by mail.

Section 2

The board of directors shall have power to fill vacancies which may occur in their own number, by death, resignation or otherwise.

Section 3

Seven members of the board being present at any regularly scheduled meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, other requirements having been met. In cases where members cannot attend because of personal reasons or because of inclement weather, meetings can be conducted via telephone or by electronic means.

Section 4

Regular and special meetings of the board of directors shall be held at a time and place designated in notice given to each one. In addition, electronic meetings may take the place of any special meeting.

Section 5

Directors shall be elected at the annual meeting for a term of three years, and each director shall hold office for the time prescribed and until his successor is elected and qualified.

Section 6

The board of directors shall try to meet at least twice a year and at such other times as requested by the president or by any two directors. Electronic meetings for special concerns may take the place of any special meeting.

ARTICLE IV

MEETINGS

Section 1

The annual meeting of the members shall be held at a time and place to be determined by the board of directors in the spring, or convenient date as close to that as the board may determine, with the business session at an hour determined by the board.

Section 2

Special meetings of the members of the corporation may be held at such place as designated by the board of directors, and may be called at any time by the president, or in his absence by the vice-president; or the meeting may be called by any two directors.

Section 3

Notice of regular or special meetings may be given by publishing same in *PASQUE PETALS*, by telephone, or via electronic means.

Section 4

At all meetings, annual or special, the president shall preside; or in his or her absence or inability to act, the vice-president; or in the absence or inability of each to act, the secretary presides.

Section 5

At every regular or special meeting, each voting member whose dues are current and each honorary member shall be entitled to cast one vote.

ARTICLE V

POET LAUREATE

From time to time, or when requested by the **governor of the State of South Dakota**, the members shall vote on the nomination for the office of Poet Laureate for the State of South Dakota. Such nomination, made when the office is vacant, shall be transmitted to the Governor as a recommendation to him for the office of Poet Laureate, as created by the statutes of the State of South Dakota.

ARTICLE VI

PROPERTY

All monies of the Society and all files of materials pertaining to its affairs, all publication material, and all record books kept by the officers of the Society and the editor shall be considered property of the Society.

ARTICLE VII

AMENDMENTS

Amendments of these bylaws may be made by the membership at the annual meeting or at a special meeting provided that each member shall have been given at least ten days notice that an amendment or amendments are to be considered. A vote of two thirds of the members present is required for adoption.