

BYLAWS OF THE NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF SCIENCE

ARTICLE I **NAME**

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

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

Section 3: It is a division of the Nebraska Academy of Sciences (NAS).

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 of NATS shall constitute the Board of Directors.

Section 4: Other ex-officio members of the Board are NAS President (or designee), President of Nebraska Junior Academy of Sciences (NJAS), and Director of Nebraska Building a Presence (BaP).

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.

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 1954 or any successor provision thereto.

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.

ARTICLE III **MEMBERSHIP**

Any person interested in science education in the state of Nebraska is eligible for membership in the NATS division of NAS.

Section 3: The president-elect shall perform the duties of the president in his/her absence and serve as program chairperson.

ARTICLE IV **OFFICERS**

Section 1: The officers of the organization shall be the president, the president-elect, the past-president, the secretary, the treasurer, six members at large, and the adviser. The adviser shall be an ex-officio member of the Board and shall be the same as the science consultant of the Nebraska Department of Education.

Section 4: The past-president shall perform the duties of the president in the absence of the president and president-elect. The past-president shall serve as the chairperson of the nomination committee.

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.

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 **COMMITTEES**

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. The president-elect shall be the chairperson of the program committee.

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 Budget and Finance Committee.

ARTICLE VII **NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

Section 1: Elections of officers shall occur at the annual conference of NATS. Election shall be by ballot.

Section 2: 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.

Section 3: An interval of three years shall lapse before an officer is again eligible for re-election to the same office.

Section 4: The terms of the six members at large will be staggered. Two members at large will be elected each year.

Section 5: 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.

ARTICLE VIII **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 IX **QUORUM**

A majority of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum of the Board.

ARTICLE X
DUES

Section 1: The annual dues shall be the same as those for NAS plus an amount set by the Board of Directors.

Section 2: Annual dues shall be payable prior to or at the annual business meeting.

Section 3: An attendance fee, set by the Board of Directors, shall be required of all non-members in attendance at conferences.

ARTICLE XI
FISCAL YEAR

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

ARTICLE XII
AMENDMENTS

Section 1: These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present 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 2: These Bylaws may be amended at any meeting without previous notice by a two-thirds vote of the total membership.

Section 3: Proposed amendments may be submitted by the Board of Directors.

Section 4: 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 5: These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of voting members by mail 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 XIII
PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

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

ARTICLE XIV
DISSOLUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION

In the event of termination or dissolution of NATS, the Board of Directors shall distribute to the other Divisions or entities of NAS any assets identified as having originated from or having been assigned to those Divisions or entities, if they are currently active. All remaining assets of NATS 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 1954 (or successor provision thereto), with preference being given, in order of priority, to (1) the NAS Divisions that remain active, (2) Nebraska organizations, and (3) national organizations. In no event shall any of the assets of NATS, upon dissolution, go or be distributed to individual members of any NAS division or affiliated society, 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.