

BY-LAWS
of the
WISCONSIN STATE CHAPTER
of the
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF SINGING, INC.

As adopted by vote on April 16, 1994,
With further amendments on April 4, 1998; April 1, 2000;
April 9, 2005; March 28, 2010; November 5, 2011; November 8, 2014; November 7, 2015;
November 4, 2017

ARTICLE I – NAME

As chartered by the Board of Directors of the National Association of Teachers of Singing, Inc., on December 28, 1973, and subject to its By-Laws, the name of this organization is: The Wisconsin State Chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing, Inc.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSES AND CODE OF ETHICS

The Wisconsin State Chapter fully adopts the stated purposes of the National Association, which are:

1. To encourage the highest standards of the vocal art and of ethical principles in the teaching of singing.

2. To promote vocal education and research at all levels, both for the enrichment of the general public and for the professional advancement of the talented.

The Wisconsin State Chapter as an organization subscribes without reservation to the Code of Ethics of the National Association of Teachers of Singing, Inc., adherence to which is one of the conditions of individual membership in the National Association.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Teachers of singing who have been accepted by the National Association into full membership, associate or affiliate membership are immediately eligible to join the Wisconsin Chapter upon the payment of annual dues. Teachers of singing who have been accepted by the National Association into Emeritus membership are immediately eligible to join the Wisconsin Chapter upon their statement of intent, and are not required to pay Chapter dues. No national member in good standing shall be denied membership in the Wisconsin Chapter. However, such Chapter membership will automatically be terminated when a members resigns or is dropped from membership in the National Association, or for non-payment of Chapter dues according to Article VIII.

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1: Officers

Chapter officers shall consist of President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Communications Secretary and Treasurer/Membership Secretary. The term of office shall be two years.

Chapter Officers may serve in their positions for two consecutive full terms. They may be elected to a different office immediately thereafter. At least one full year must elapse after two consecutive terms served in a given office before an officer may be elected to that same office again.

The duties of the Officers shall be:

The President shall preside at all meetings and general meetings of the Chapter with the right and duty of exercising leadership in the program of the Chapter. The President shall administer the overall policies adopted by the membership and Board, being responsible, either personally or by delegation, for implementation of chapter mandates. The President shall appoint committees as deemed necessary or as requested by the Board. The President shall determine the size, personnel, chair, and tenure of all special committees and shall serve as ex-officio member of all committees except nominating committees. The President shall appoint a member in good standing to fill any vacated, unexpired term of office or Board position. The President shall see that the Bylaws of the Chapter are enforced and shall serve as representative of the Chapter with outside agencies, with the teaching profession, and with the general public. The President shall serve as the chief liaison with the Regional Governor and the national office of the Association, including annual reports of Chapter events, as solicited by the national office, and an up-to-date roster of Chapter Board members.

The Vice President shall oversee the educational and social offerings of the Chapter outside of the annual Student Auditions. The Vice President may delegate tasks, but the final responsibility for the administration of events will remain with the Vice President. The Vice President shall, in the absence of the President, perform the duties of the President.

The Recording Secretary shall keep minutes of all Board and Chapter meetings, such record to be presented in a timely fashion. In the absence of the President and the Vice President, the Recording Secretary shall perform the duties of the President.

The Treasurer/Membership Secretary shall manage the Chapter's finances and membership records. The Treasurer/Membership Secretary shall keep record of dues payments as collected through the National Association and inform the Board and Communications Secretary of members who have not renewed by the national deadline. The Treasurer/Membership Secretary shall give a report of the Chapter's finances and membership at each Board and Chapter Meeting. Every four years, but always with election of a new Treasurer/Membership Secretary, the Treasurer/Membership Secretary shall arrange for the auditing of the Chapter's accounts. The Treasurer/Membership Secretary shall serve as liaison with the national office of the Association on membership concerns. In the absence of the President, Vice-President, and Recording Secretary, the Treasurer/Membership Secretary shall perform the duties of the President.

The Communications Secretary shall be in charge of all of the Chapter's communications, written and electronic, including management of the Chapter's website. The Communications Secretary may delegate tasks, but the final responsibility for communications shall rest with the Communications Secretary.

Section 2: Board of Directors

The Board of Directors shall consist of the Chapter Officers, and:

Three Board Members at Large (voting) - Elected by the membership to three-year terms on a rotating basis. At least one full year must elapse after completion of the term before a Member at Large may be elected to that same office again.

The Wisconsin District Governor (votes only to break a tie)

The Immediate Past President (non-voting), for one year following the completion of his/her term

The State Auditions Coordinator (non-voting)

More than 50% of the voting members of the Board must be present at a Board Meeting for a quorum. A quorum is required for any Board policy action. If circumstances do not permit a physical meeting of the Board, discussion and voting may take place via the Internet.

Any Board Member who misses two Board meetings during a year may be dropped from the Board. In such cases, the President, with the consent of the Board, shall appoint a member to finish out the unexpired term.

Article V - Committees

Section 1: Standing Committees.

The President shall establish the following committees, which shall consist of the following Directors and/or other Chapter Members, for the purposes set forth below:

1. Auditions Committee.

The Auditions Committee shall consist of the Chapter President, Auditions Coordinator, the acting Auditions Site Coordinator and other members as directed in the Auditions Administration Handbook. The Committee shall execute the workings of the Chapter Student Auditions according to the Auditions Administration Handbook. It shall serve in an advisory capacity to the Board and shall assume powers and duties as deemed necessary and delegated to it by the Board, to which it shall be responsible.

2. Chapter Nominating Committee.

A Chapter nominating committee shall be appointed at the beginning of each President's term. The Past President shall be a member of the committee and its chair. It shall be responsible for the nomination of persons to fill the offices of the Board. There shall be no fewer than three Members in Good Standing on this committee. Members on the Board may be selected to serve on the committee, with the exception of the President.

Section 2: Other Committees.

Each President, upon assumption of office, may appoint those committees deemed necessary to the on-going business, operation, and projects of the Chapter.

Section 3: Terms of Office.

Rules for rotation of offices in the Auditions Committee are stipulated in the Auditions Handbook. All other committee appointments must be ratified by the Board and shall have tenure not to exceed the term of the President. Committee appointments may be terminated at any time by two-thirds majority vote of the Directors.

All Chapter Committee Chairs shall submit written reports to the Board, which shall be incorporated into the printed minutes of the Board meetings.

ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS

Section 1: Chapter Meetings

There shall be at least one meeting of the Chapter per year. Announcement of a meeting with the proposed agenda and program shall be sent to Chapter members at least twenty-one days prior to the date of the meeting. Other meetings of the chapter may be called at the President's discretion, or may be called by one-third of the Membership, provided appropriate notice has been given to the entire body. A quorum shall consist of 20% of the members in good standing at the time of the meeting.

Section 2: Board Meetings

The President shall call Board meetings. There shall be at least three meetings of the Board of Directors per year. Notice of meetings with proposed agenda shall be sent to all Board members in advance.

ARTICLE VII – ELECTIONS AND QUORUM

Chapter elections shall be held at a Fall Meeting. A Nominating Committee appointed by the President shall provide a slate of candidates for election. The meeting at which the election is to take place shall be announced as such to all members of the Chapter at least twenty-one days in advance, and shall include the list of nominees. Members in good standing (See Article VII) who are unable to attend the meeting may pre-vote via absentee ballot.

Elections for members of the Board shall take place at the Student Auditions weekend Chapter meeting. Members of the Board elected shall take office immediately upon their election. Officers shall serve until the same meeting two years hence and Members at Large until three years hence. In the case of a mid-term replacement of an officer, the replacement shall serve the remainder of the replacement term and then may be elected for two full two-year terms. In the case of a mid-term replacement of a Member at Large, the replacement shall serve the remainder of the replacement term and then may be elected for a full three-year term.

ARTICLE VIII – DUES

The membership year of the Wisconsin State Chapter shall coincide with that of the National Association. The annual Chapter dues, as established by the Membership, are payable through the national renewal process.

New members of the National Association, or national members new to the state of Wisconsin who are in good standing may join the Wisconsin Chapter at any time during the membership year with no penalty fee assessed.

ARTICLE IX – PROGRAM AND PROCEDURES

The program of the Chapter properly may include professional, educational, promotional and social activities at the discretion of its officers and members, so long as the activities are consistent with the Purposes and Code of Ethics stated in Article II. Business meetings shall be conducted in accordance with Robert’s Rules of Order.

ARTICLE X – AMENDMENTS

With the exception of Articles I and II, which may not be amended or revoked, the By Laws of the Chapter may be repealed or amended, or new By Laws adopted by a majority of the Chapter membership voting in person or in advance by writing, provided that such amendments have been announced to the membership at least twenty-one days in advance of the voting date.

By-Laws revision approved by the Board of Directors February 7, 1998, and accepted by Chapter vote April 4, 1998. Further revisions approved by the Board of Directors February 13, 2000, and accepted by Chapter vote April 1, 2000. Further revisions approved by the Board of Directors February 5, 2005, and accepted by Chapter vote on April 9, 2005. Further revisions approved by the Board of Directors June 6, 2009, and accepted by Chapter vote on March 28, 2010. Further revisions were approved on November 5, 2011. Further revisions approved by the Board of Directors June 7, 2014, and accepted by Chapter vote on November 8, 2014. Further revisions approved by the Board of Directors March 30, 2015, and accepted by Chapter vote on November 7, 2015. Further revisions approved by the Board of Directors June 3, 2017, and accepted by Chapter vote on November 4, 2017.