

# **THE MAINE POETS SOCIETY BYLAWS**

The name of this organization is THE MAINE POETS SOCIETY (MPS). The Society is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) established in 1936 as Poetry Fellowship of Maine. The name was changed to Maine Poets Society in 1993.

## **I. Objectives**

1. To bring together Maine residents actively engaged in enjoying and creating poetry, who are interested in broadening their knowledge of poetry, increasing their understanding and skills, and who are willing to share their own knowledge and abilities to help poets develop, learn, and achieve.
2. To encourage ever-improving standards for members in producing and in evaluating poetry.
3. To encourage broadening of members' understanding and appreciation of our rich heritage of poetry, including many forms, styles, subjects and concepts.
4. To support popularizing the appreciation of poetry, especially within the state of Maine and by Maine poets.

## **II. Membership**

1. Maine residency is not required for membership.
2. Any writer or lover of poetry is eligible for membership in The Maine Poets Society if the following requirements are met:
  - a. Pays annual dues.
  - b. Subscribes to the objectives of the Society.

## **III. Dues and Fees**

1. Dues and any recommended waivers of dues will be established annually by a vote of the Board of Officers.
2. Annual dues for members are payable in January of each year.
  - a. Renewal notices and one reminder will be sent in a timely manner. Active membership (such as contest submissions and readings in the round) will be voided for anyone whose dues remain unpaid by the spring members' meeting. Membership may be reinstated for the remainder of the calendar year upon receipt of full payment of dues.
3. The Board may approve additional fees as needed for member participation in various activities that may occasionally exceed the Society's standard costs..

#### **IV. Board of Officers and Executive Committee**

1. The Executive Committee consists of the Society's elected Officers and the chairs of committees which may be established by the Board from time to time.
  - a. The Executive Committee serves as advisor and consultant to the President and is responsible for governing the affairs of the Society including but not limited to setting dues, approving budgets, maintaining membership records, planning and implementing programs, and communicating with the membership.
  - b. All Executive Committee members may vote at meetings.
  - c. A quorum consists of a majority of the Executive Committee.
  - d. Job descriptions for all Executive Committee positions will be developed and revised as needed and shared with the membership.
2. Elected officers of the Society are President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, who comprise the Board of Officers.
3. Other members of the Executive Committee include Membership Secretary, Publicity Chair, Stanza Editor and Hospitality Chair, plus one or more members-at-large for additional duties such as technical support as required. These members shall be appointed by agreement of the elected Board members.
4. Officers are elected for two-year terms by a majority vote of members present either in person or virtually at the Annual Meeting of the election year. In the event of a vacancy, the President will nominate a replacement, to be approved by the Board, who will serve until the next regular election.
4. An individual may serve simultaneously as an Officer and as chair of a committee but may not hold two elected Officer positions simultaneously unless a position is vacant and unable to be filled otherwise.

#### **V. Meetings of the membership**

1. The Society will hold a minimum of two business meetings annually as part of the membership meeting. One meeting will be designated as the Annual Meeting for the purposes of voting (when required) and informing members about the status of the organization.
2. Officers, Executive Committee members, and MPS members may attend meetings and vote, when necessary, either in person or virtually via technology.
3. The Board may offer additional meetings for the membership for social and enrichment activities.

#### **IV. Bylaws**

The Society's bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of all members present at the Annual Meeting providing that a proposed amendment has been presented in writing to the full membership at least 30 days prior to the meeting and the date and location of the

meeting has been specified at the time of the notification. Any member may propose an amendment by following this procedure.

## **V. Dissolution**

In the event of dissolution of the society, no part of the net assets of the Society which remain after all debts have been paid will inure to any member, and all net assets will be given to a poetry organization or organizations which are nonprofit and tax exempt in accordance with Internal Revenue Service codes and regulations or to a foundation concerned with supporting poetry activities. Maine poetry organizations or foundations will be given preference as recipients of the Society's assets.