

APAST CONSTITUTION

AND BYLAWS



**Association of Presidential Awardees in
Science Teaching**



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The following constitution and bylaws incorporating the changes proposed in the Fall of 2019 were adopted at the Annual Business Meeting of APAST held online in May, 2020.

Association of Presidential Awardees in Science Teaching (APAST)

Constitution

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CONSTITUTION

Article I **Name and Affiliation**

Section 1: Name of Association

The name of this association shall be the Association of Presidential Awardees in Science Teaching (APAST), hereinafter referred to as APAST or the Association.

Section 2: Associated Group

APAST shall be an associated group of the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA).

Article II **Purposes of Association**

The purposes of APAST shall include the following:

- A.** To facilitate the organization of activities by past and present Presidential Awardees at a national and/or regional level which will utilize their combined expertise in the service of the profession and their colleagues in science teaching.
- B.** To sponsor activities at national, regional, and/or state conventions which will stimulate and motivate the Awardees and their colleagues to continue leadership roles in the profession.
- C.** To provide a mechanism for soliciting funds for outreach activities by the Presidential Awardees.
- D.** To promote recognition for those who excel in the teaching of science.
- E.** To promote the interchange of ideas and the resolution of critical issues in science education.
- F.** To motivate and encourage highly qualified individuals to become science educators and scientists.
- G.** The Association is organized exclusively for educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

BY-LAWS

Article I Membership

Section 1: Eligibility

Those eligible for membership in the Association shall be former and current recipients of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Teaching. A member shall be considered a member in good standing when his/her dues are paid according to procedures established in the Policy and Procedures Manual of the Association.

Section 2: Current Awardees

Current Presidential Awardees for Excellence in Science Teaching are granted honorary membership in the Association.

Section 3: Member Rights

All members, in good standing, shall be accorded the rights and privileges normally provided members of educational and/or professional organizations, including, but not necessarily limited to, the right to vote, hold office, receive Association publications, and participate in all meetings and conferences of the Association.

Article II Organization and Officers

Section 1: an Executive Board consisting of the elected and appointed officers of the Association shall govern The Association.

Section 2: The elected officers of the Association shall consist of President, President-elect, Past President, Secretary, Treasurer and Directors. The president-elect and the Treasurer shall be elected in even years to take office in the odd year; the Treasurer for a two year term and the president-elect for a two year term to become President for two years and Past-President for two years. The Secretary shall be elected in odd years for a two-year term to take office in the even year. The elected officers shall comprise the Executive Board of the Association. The elected officers will include a Director from each of five (5) areas:

Elementary Science: Up to three (3) may hold this position

Middle School Science: Up to three (3) may hold this position

High School Science: Up to three (3) may hold this position

Higher Education: Up to three (3) may hold this position

Directors-at-large: Up to three (3) may hold this position

Section 3: Directors are elected every other year and serve a two-year term. They may hold their position for up to 2 terms without reelection.

Section 4: The President shall be the official designee of APAST or shall appoint a designee with Executive Board approval, a Liaison from the membership at-large to act as the official liaison with professional organizations as determined by the Executive Board. The purpose of this liaison is to establish and maintain communication between the membership of APAST and the membership of the designated professional organization. The President shall appoint individuals if a vacancy exists on the Board. If three (3) or more Board members contest any appointment, the full Board will need to

vote on that appointment. Contesting appointments must take the form of an official letter with signatures of all Board members who are contesting the appointment.

Section 5: The powers and duties of the officers, together with the methods of their nomination and election, shall be as prescribed in the Policies and Procedures of the Association.

Article III Association Meetings -Quorums

Section 1: The Annual Meeting and the Executive Board of the Association shall be held in conjunction with the national convention of the National Science Teachers Association.

Section 2: A majority of the membership of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum of that body.

Section 3: A majority of members present and voting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at the Annual Meeting.

Article IV Election and Duties of Officers

Section 1: Nominations for Office

Any member, in good standing, of the Association may be nominated to serve as a member of the Executive Board. Any member may nominate him/herself by notifying the Chairperson of the Nominations and Election Committee of his/her interest in being nominated for office. Another member of APAST may suggest a regular member for nomination.

Section 2: Elections

Officers of APAST shall be elected by electronic ballot prior to the annual meeting. A deadline must be specified on the ballot. The newly elected officers will assume their duties at the end of the annual meeting at which they are announced as officers for the next year. The Executive Board will describe Establishment of election dates in the Policies Manual of the Association. Membership dues must be paid 45 days prior to the election in order for the Treasurer to declare the member in good standing and eligible to vote in the election of APAST officers and Directors.

Section 3: Duties of Officers

A. The President shall preside over all meetings of the Executive Board, the annual meeting, and other general meetings of the Association; appoint individuals to fill vacancies in unexpired terms on the Executive Board, with the approval of the Executive Board. President shall make all committee appointments whose terms shall be decided by the Executive Board, unless not otherwise provided for in the Bylaws of the Association.

B. The President-elect shall serve as the chairperson for Coordination of APAST Committees. The President-elect shall maintain an up-to-date listing of Officers, Directors, Committee Chairs and members of respective committees, to be posted in the APAST Quarterly, APAST's WebSite and/or other publications deemed necessary by the Executive Board.

C. The Past President shall preside in the absence of the President and shall serve as the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee. The President shall appoint Directors from the Board who will be members of the Nominations Committee.

D. The Secretary shall take minutes of each annual and/or special meeting of the Association and each meeting of the Executive Board. These shall be filed with the Executive Board and copies provided to all members via the Association newsletter and/or web site. The Secretary shall issue notices of meetings, preserve all documents and records, and transmit them to his/her successor.

E. The Treasurer shall keep a record of members and serve as Chairperson of the Finance Committee, receive all monies of the Association, and provide for their safe-keeping, pay all bills authorized by the Executive Board, keep a record of all receipts and expenditures of the Association, prepare a budget for review by the Executive Board, prepare a fiscal report for the annual meeting and special financial reports whenever called for by the President, submit the books for audit at the annual meeting, preserve the financial records and transmit them to his/her successor.

F. The District Directors will represent the district from which they are elected as described in Article II of the Constitution. They shall organize activities as prescribed by the Policies and Procedures of the Association in that district, which are consistent with the goals of APAST.

Article V Standing Committees

Section 1: Nominations and Election Committee

The President, with the approval of the Executive Board, shall appoint a Nominations and Election Committee. This Committee will be chaired by the Past President and/or designee from the Board of Directors and shall solicit the names of members to serve as candidates for office in APAST and submit a list of candidates to the Executive Board for

ballot preparation. This Committee shall also be responsible for validating the results of the annual election.

Section 2: Newsletter: Editorial Review Board

The President, with the approval of the Executive Board, shall appoint a Newsletter Editor(s). The Newsletter Editor will sit as an ex officio member of the Executive Board. An Association Newsletter will be issued at least three times each year and sent to the membership. A summary of minutes of all meetings of the Association shall be transmitted to the membership through the Newsletter. The President shall appoint three Directors and two at-large members to the Editorial Review Board whose purpose shall be to solicit and review material for the APAST Quarterly. The Newsletter Editor shall serve as Chairperson for the Editorial Review Board.

Section 3: Program Committee

The President, with the approval of the Executive Board, shall appoint a Program Committee. The Program Committee shall be Chaired by the President-elect and assist the President with the planning of the program and the activities related to the Annual Meeting. The President shall appoint three Directors and two at-large members.

Section 4: Finance Committee

At each annual meeting, the President, with the approval of the Executive Board, will appoint three Board of Directors to conduct an annual review of the books of the Association as well as certify that all funds have been properly received, accounted for,

and appropriately expended 30 days before the Annual Meeting. The Treasurer shall serve a Chairperson of the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee Chair shall make an Annual Report to the Executive Board at the Annual Meeting.

Section Five: Membership Committee

Section Five: The President shall appoint three directors and two members-at-large to the Membership Committee whose purpose is to assess procedures, policies, programs and services afforded members in order to strengthen and increase the membership of APAST. The Chair of the Membership Committee shall be one of the Directors appointed by the President.

Section Six: Policies and Procedures Committee

Section Six: The President shall appoint with approval of the Executive Board three Directors and two members at-large to the Procedures and Policies Committee whose purpose is to maintain an accurate record of APAST procedures and Policies that promote an effective and smooth-running organization. The Committee shall submit an up-to-date Procedures and Policies Manual at the Annual Meeting. The Procedures and Policies Committee Chairperson shall be one of the five Committee members appointed by the President with approval of the Executive Board.

Article VI Dues

The amount of the annual dues shall be established by the Executive Board and announced at the annual meeting and in the first newsletter of the year. Retired APAST members may have dues waived and still be a member in good standing. Dues are payable to the Treasurer of the Association as prescribed by the Policy and Procedures of the Association. *Good Standing is interpreted to mean dues and/or membership is current.*

Article VII Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the Association shall be determined by the Executive Board and described within the Policies and Procedures Manual of the Association.

Article VIII Amendment Procedures

This constitution may be amended by the following procedures:

- A. Any member(s), in good standing, may propose amendments to the Constitution and/or By-laws by submission of the proposed amendment, in writing, to the Executive Board. Proposed amendments shall be received not later than 60 days prior to the Annual Meeting held in conjunction with NSTA's National Convention for consideration at that year's annual meeting or other meeting called for this purpose.
- B. The Executive Board shall distribute all proposed amendments, approved by the Executive Board, in writing, to the Board of Directors for consideration no less than fourteen days prior to the annual meeting.

C. An amendment, approved for consideration, may be considered or further amended at any meeting of the Board of Directors. Amendments. The amendment shall be submitted to the APAST Board of Directors for approval by a two-thirds majority vote, of all members present in good standing.

ARTICLE IX Prohibited Activities

No substantial part of the activities of the Association of Presidential Awardees in Science Teaching shall be the carrying of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation. The Association shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the Association shall not carry on any other activities forbidden by an Association exempt from the Federal Income Tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or make any contribution which is deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Article X Dissolution Clause

If at any time the Association shall cease to carry out the purposes as herein stated, all assets and property held by it, whether in trust or otherwise, shall, after payment of its liabilities, be paid over to the National Science Teachers Association.

Article XI Parliamentary Authority

Roberts Rules of Order, most recently revised edition shall govern the meetings of the Association in all instances to which they apply.