

Bylaws for the Alabama Chapter National Association of Teachers of Singing

Article I—Chapter Name

As chartered in June, 2012 by the Board of Directors of the National Association of Teachers of Singing, Incorporated (hereafter referred to as “NATS”) and subject to its **Bylaws**, the name of this organization is the Alabama Chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing.

Article II—Mission and Code of Ethics

The Alabama Chapter adopts fully the stated mission of NATS. “The mission of NATS is to encourage the highest standards of the vocal art and of ethical principles in the teaching of singing; and 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 Alabama Chapter, as an organization, subscribes without reservation to the **NATS Code of Ethics**. (<http://www.nats.org/who-is-nats/code-of-ethics.html>)

Article III—Membership

All teachers of singing who are full, associate, affiliate, or emeritus members of NATS, and who reside in or near the geographical area in which the Alabama Chapter has been chartered, are immediately eligible for membership in the Chapter. No such member shall be refused membership in the Alabama Chapter; however, such chapter membership is not obligatory on the part of the individual. Membership shall be maintained through the paying of annual dues to the National Office and the Alabama Chapter. (See Article VII.) Chapter membership shall be terminated when a member resigns or is dropped from membership in NATS.

Article IV—Officers and Executive Board

Chapter officers comprising the Executive Board shall consist of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar, Membership Chair, Education Chair, Repertoire Chair, Website Chair, and Historian, and, *ex officio*, the Past President, the District Governor, and the Regional Governor. As *ex officio* members of the Executive board, the Past President and the Regional Governor shall serve in an advisory capacity only and shall not vote. The terms of office shall be two years. The Executive Board shall outline programs; direct the policy, activity and growth of the Chapter; secure speakers, clinicians, and other talent for meetings; and promote membership in the Chapter in accordance with the membership regulations established by the National Association.

President: The President shall preside at all meetings of the Chapter and present such matters as may properly come before the meeting.

Vice-President: The Vice-President shall assist the President in his/her duties and preside at meetings when the president is absent. He/she shall normally move up to the presidency after serving as Vice-President.

Neither the President nor Vice-President shall serve consecutively for more than two terms.

Secretary: The Secretary shall keep accurate minutes of all meetings and conduct necessary correspondence, unless another chapter member is designated for this task. In conformity with the published deadline dates, the secretary will submit chapter news and activity reports, as requested to the NATS executive office and/or to the Regional Governor. Election of Chapter officers shall be immediately reported to the Regional Governor by the Secretary.

Treasurer: The Treasurer shall keep an accurate account of the finances of the Chapter, pay all properly authorized bills of the Chapter, and will submit an annual report of the Chapter's finances to the membership.

Registrar: The Registrar shall be responsible for the organization and execution of the Chapter's annual student auditions. The Registrar will coordinate with the Chapter President all communication to the membership regarding the auditions, including teacher/student registration materials and the schedule of auditions. The Registrar shall also coordinate with the site host with regard to organizing adequate audition space for the event, travel information, and hotel/motel information for members and students.

Membership Chair: The Membership Chair shall maintain close ties with voice instructors in the state and cultivate membership among colleagues who are not currently NATS members; expediently advertise the organization to gain new members; and shall maintain contact with inactive and retired members.

Education Chair: The Education Chair shall be responsible for oversight of ALANATS Workshops, working in cooperation with the Executive Board, including the selection of clinicians, coordination with site hosts and dissemination of information to the membership. The Education Chair will also notify the membership of any educational enrichment opportunities that occur in the Chapter.

Repertoire Chair: The Repertoire Chair shall be responsible for adjudicating repertoire for the annual Student Auditions, including hearing and deciding questions regarding appropriate repertoire in keeping with the **Guidelines** set forth by the Alabama Chapter. The Repertoire Chair will also maintain a current knowledge of repertoire collections and new repertoire in order to adjudicate the selection of repertoire for the Student Auditions.

Website Chair: The Website Chair shall maintain the Chapter website, working in cooperation with the Executive Board to supply current information about upcoming events to the membership.

Historian: The Historian shall create and maintain the portion of the Chapter website devoted to past events and shall maintain such other materials as are available about the history of the Chapter.

Special officers, committees, or chairmen may be appointed by the President to serve in such temporary capacities as occasions may demand. Any administrative officer, whether elected or appointed, shall cease to hold office upon termination of his/her membership in NATS. Upon proof of due cause, any elected officer may be removed from office by two-thirds vote of the Chapter membership.

Article V—Meetings

There shall be at least one business meeting of the Chapter each year, which shall be held in conjunction with the annual Student Auditions in February. An announcement of the meeting, with proposed agenda and program, will be communicated to the membership at least twenty-one days prior to the date of each meeting. The location of Alabama Chapter meetings will rotate from year to year because of the wide geographical area of the Chapter. Chapter meetings may be called by the President or by any responsible segment of the membership provided in the latter instance that the Chapter officers and the remainder of the Chapter membership are notified at least twenty-one days in advance of such a meeting. The Executive Board shall meet in February and October of each year. The Chapter President shall report the condition of the Chapter to the membership at least once each year through the Chapter website (www.alanats.org) and/or by e-mail.

Article VI—Elections and Quorum

At the spring meeting of the Chapter, elections will be held. A nominating committee appointed by the President will provide a slate of nominees for the offices stated above. The nominating committee will follow the suggested process by the National Office as follows:

1. Appoint a nominating committee of at least three people.
2. Nominating committee issues a call to the membership for nominations that includes a deadline for receipt.
3. Nominating committee considers nominations along with any recommendations from committee members.
4. Nominating committee develops and recommends slate.
5. At the vote (when it is in person at a meeting) there should be a call for nominations from the floor. Anyone making a nomination from the floor should seek the approval of the nominee prior to putting the name in consideration.

The meeting at which an election will take place will be announced as such to all members of the Chapter at least twenty-one days in advance of the meeting date and the slate of nominees will be given. Officers elected will take office at once, serving until the

spring meeting two years hence. (See under **Officers** for an exception to this.) A quorum shall consist of one-third of the active membership present.

Article VII—Dues and Assessments

The annual Chapter dues shall be assessed and payable by January 1st of each year. Members whose dues remain unpaid as of February 1st shall be removed from membership. The amount of dues may be changed upon recommendation of the Executive Board and a two-thirds vote of the membership. Assessments over and above the annual dues may be made for special events necessitating unusual expenditures only where such a motion is entertained at a meeting where a quorum is present, or by mail (regular or electronic) and said motion is passed by a majority vote.

Article VIII—Program and Procedures

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

Article IX—Amendments

With the exception of Articles I, II, and III, which may not be amended or revoked, the **Bylaws** of this Chapter may be repealed or amended, or new **Bylaws** adopted, by a majority of the Chapter membership voting in person, by written proxy, or by mail (regular or electronic), provided that such amendments have been announced to the membership at least twenty-one days in advance of the voting date.