

**THE LOUISIANA CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION**

**OF TEACHERS OF SINGING, INC.**

**BYLAWS**

**ARTICLE I**

**Title, Organization, and Administrative Plan**

**Section 1. Title**

Chartered by the Board of Directors of NATS, Inc. and subject to its bylaws, the name of the corporation shall be the Louisiana Chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing, Inc., hereinafter referred to as the Chapter.

**Section 2. Organization**

The Chapter shall be designated as a nonprofit, education association, organized according to Article VII of the National Association Bylaws.

**Section 3. Administration**

The property, funds, and affairs of the Chapter shall be controlled and managed by the Chapter Officers consisting of the president, president elect, and secretary/treasurer.

**ARTICLE II**

**Purposes**

The Chapter is organized for these purposes: to encourage the highest standard of the vocal art and of ethical principles in the teaching of singing; 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; and to organize and affiliate its members to provide nationwide accessibility to qualified teachers for all students of singing.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **Members**

#### **Section 1. Eligibility of Members**

The Chapter shall be open to all persons who hold membership in the National Association and live within the State of Louisiana.

#### **Section 2. Status of Chapter Membership**

Terminations of membership, Resignations, Reinstatements and Leaves of Absence shall be executed according to the Bylaws of the National Association.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **Meetings of Members**

#### **Section 1. Meetings and Notice**

The chapter shall meet in convention, including a business meeting, upon call of the president at a time and place

determined by the chapter officers. Notice of such meetings must be emailed to all members at least thirty days before the date of said meeting.

## **Section 2. Manner of Acting**

At any regular meeting of the Chapter each full member and emeritus member in good standing shall be entitled to vote.

## **Section 3. Voting by Mail or Email**

When necessary, a vote of the Chapter may be taken by mail or email, but said vote will be valid only upon receipt of ballots from at least fifty percent of the Chapter membership franchised to vote.

## **Section 4. Definition of a quorum and disposition of official decisions.**

A quorum is defined by the members present at any meeting called by the president. All official decisions of the assembly will be promulgated to each and every member of the chapter within 7 days of a meeting. All official decisions of the assembly will stand unless one non-present member disagrees with a decision and informs the president in writing within 10 days of receipt of a decision. If one member disagrees with a decision, an e-mail (or regular mail if members do not have an e-mail address) vote on the motion will be conducted to include all members of the chapter. No action will be taken on any official decision until this procedure is exhausted.

# **ARTICLE V**

## **Chapter Officers**

## **Section 1. General Powers**

a. The Chapter Officers shall derive their powers from the Chapter and shall have full authority to act for the Chapter, within the limitations defined by these Bylaws. The Chapter Officers are responsible to the Chapter for all such actions and complete minutes of all its deliberations and decisions shall be kept. A full and accurate report of the transactions of the Chapter Officers shall be rendered to the Chapter by the secretary/treasurer at every meeting of the Chapter.

b. The Chapter Officers, at their own discretion, may study and formulate policies deemed necessary or expedient for the welfare of the Chapter. The chapter must then vote on the final decision of these policies to be in effect.

## **Section 2. Vacancies**

a. If any Chapter Office falls vacant by reason of death, resignation, disqualification, or inability to act, the remaining officers shall appoint a successor who shall hold office for the unexpired term or until a successor shall have been elected by the members of the Chapter.

b. Any officer shall cease to hold office upon termination of membership, or may be removed from office by two-thirds vote of the members voting at any regular meeting of the Chapter. Such action will be taken when it appears evident that an officer has been or is unable to serve or is otherwise disqualified.

## **Section 3. Financial Responsibility**

None of the Chapter Officers shall be required to accept financial responsibility for duly authorized activities of the

Chapter carried on in good faith, and in pursuit of the purposes and activities prescribed or authorized by these Bylaws.

#### **Section 4. Responsibilities of the President**

The President of the Chapter shall preside at all meetings of the Chapter and present such matters as may properly come before the body, be in ex-officio capacity on all committees, and keep the membership informed of the activities of the organization.

#### **Section 5. Responsibilities of the President-Elect**

The President-Elect shall assist the President in his/her duties and preside at meetings when the President is absent.

#### **Section 6. Responsibilities of the Secretary-Treasurer**

The Secretary-Treasurer shall keep accurate minutes of all meetings, conduct necessary correspondence, submit chapter news to appropriate agencies, submit minutes of meetings to the body for approval, submit a treasurer's report at each meeting of the Chapter for review, keep an accurate account of the finances of the Chapter, receive payment of dues, notify delinquent members that they have been dropped from membership, collect payment for all audition and workshop fees, and pay all approved bills of the Chapter.

#### **Section 7. Elections**

Presidents shall serve for two years and may not succeed themselves. President Elects shall serve for two years and may not succeed themselves. Secretary Treasurers shall

serve for two years and may succeed themselves. Elections will be held at spring Chapter meetings. Vacant positions may be filled by election at any meeting or be email vote if necessary.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **The Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee shall outline programs; direct policy, activity and growth of the Chapter; secure speakers and other talent for the meetings; serve as an advisory/review committee for issues directed by the Chapter; and promote membership in the Chapter in accordance with the membership regulations established by the National Association. Members are elected to two-year terms and may not succeed themselves.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **Dues and Assessments**

The annual chapter dues shall be \$25.00 and are payable by January 1 of each year. The amount of dues may be changed upon recommendation of the Executive Committee and a vote of the membership. If any dues remain unpaid by June 1 of the same year, said membership shall automatically cease. Assessment 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, and said motion is passed by a majority vote. (Current as of October 2008.)

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **Programs**

Chapter programs 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.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **Rules of Procedure and Amendment**

#### **Section 1. Rules of Order**

Roberts Rules of Order (latest revised edition) shall govern all meetings when not inconsistent with these Bylaws. Any motion or resolution offered for consideration shall be written if requested by any member prior to action.

#### **Section 2. Amendment of Bylaws**

With the exception of Articles II and III, any and all bylaws may be amended or new bylaws adopted at any regular meeting of members of the Chapter or by mail/email. A quorum as stated elsewhere in these Bylaws is required to make these amendments or adoptions. Notification of contemplated change or amendment must be submitted to the membership in writing at least twenty-one days prior to the vote.