

Georgia State Poetry Society, Inc.

Founded August 30, 1979; Incorporated June 11, 1981, Atlanta, Georgia;
Member, National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc.

BY-LAWS

Article I: Name

1. The name of the organization shall be *Georgia State Poetry Society, Incorporated* (hereinafter referred to as GSPS.) The corporation has been determined by the Internal Revenue Service to be a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.
2. When appropriate, the communicative name, *Georgia Poetry Society*, may be used until such time as the contingency set forth in the following paragraph occurs.
3. It is contemplated that at some time in the future Georgia State Poetry Society, Incorporated will become the umbrella organization for a federation of affiliated chapters. In that event the Georgia Poetry Society may become a chapter of Georgia State Poetry Society, Incorporated, and new by-laws will be adopted to govern and regulate the operation of the organization in its new form.

Article II: Objectives

The objectives of GSPS are:

- (A) To further the purposes of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Incorporated (NFSPS) in securing fuller public recognition of the art of poetry.
- (B) To stimulate a finer and more intelligent appreciation of poetry.
- (C) To provide opportunity for study of, and incentive for practice in, the writing and reading of poetry.

Article III: Membership

Section 1: Affiliated Chapters

Reserved until such time as GSPS becomes a federation of affiliated chapters.

Section 2: Individual Membership

Members of GSPS shall be persons in accord with the objectives set forth in Article II. Members shall be classified as active, full-time student, current teacher of Language Arts or English in a Georgia public or private school, active duty military and spouse, or life member. To be

eligible as a student, a member shall be enrolled full-time in an accredited academic program. All classifications of members shall be eligible to vote or hold office. Membership is open to all persons regardless of age, sex, disability, race, national origin, religion or sexual orientation.

Section 3: Membership Procedure

Application for membership in GSPS shall be submitted on an approved form to the stated GSPS address, to be acted upon, if necessary, by the Board of Directors or such other membership committee as may be appointed for that purpose.

Section 4: Dues

Dues are established by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. Dues are payable January 1. A dues notice shall be mailed to all members in good standing as of December 31, with a reminder to those still owing dues to follow by March 1.

New members joining before September 1 will pay the full amount of dues for the year, and those joining between September 1 and December 31 will be credited with the balance of the year plus the following year's dues.

Section 5: Delinquent Dues

Immediately after May 1, members whose dues are unpaid shall be dropped from membership. Members dropped for non-payment may be reinstated by payment of the current year's dues plus an administrative fee of \$5.00. Members whose dues are delinquent shall be dropped from the membership roster without further notice.

Section 6: Conduct

The Board of Directors reserves the right to refuse renewal of membership to any members upon proof determined by a majority of the Board that the member's conduct is not in accord with the objectives stated in Article II, provided written notice is given to such member and an opportunity to respond to it in a discussion with the Board of Directors. The decision of membership termination rests exclusively with the Board of Directors, and shall be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Article IV: Officers

Section 1: Elected Officers

The elected officers of GSPS shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Additionally, five at-large directors shall be elected.

Section 2: Appointed Officers

Officers such as editors, librarian, Historian, webmaster, and Parliamentarian

may be appointed by the President as needed.

Article V: Board of Directors

Section 1: Voting Board Members

The four elected officers and five directors at-large shall constitute the Board of Directors.

Section 2: Board Meetings

The Board of Directors shall convene as necessary, but generally after each quarterly meeting. An annual business meeting of the Board of Directors shall be included at the spring meeting for the Board to create a nominations committee, which shall make officer candidate nominations for the following year.

Article VI: Meetings

Section 1: General Membership Meetings

At least four general membership meetings shall be held per annum, usually in January, April, July and October. The July meeting shall be designated as the annual business meeting of the general membership.

Section 2: Other Activities

- A. Other activities, such as poetry readings and workshops, shall be arranged by the Board of Directors or its designated officers as long as a reasonable attempt is made to notify members of the activities.
- B. A special business meeting may be called to order if an emergency arises.

Article VII: Quorum

Section 1: Board Meetings

A quorum at Board meetings shall be five members.

Section 2: General Membership Meetings

A quorum at general membership meetings shall be 25 voting members in good standing.

Article VIII: Elections

Section 1: Terms of Office

Terms of office shall be one year. The President, Vice-President, and Secretary may not serve more than two terms in succession. The Treasurer may serve for a maximum of five consecutive terms. At-large directors may serve for a maximum of two successive terms.

Section 2: Elections

- A. In April, the Board of Directors shall appoint a nominating committee

consisting of a chairperson and two other members. This committee shall secure the names of members who are competent and willing to serve in the offices listed in Article IV, Section 1. The committee shall submit its slate of candidates to the President at least two weeks prior to the July general membership meeting for circulation to the Board of Directors.

B. The selected slate of officers and at-large directors shall be presented to the general membership at the July meeting, at which time additional nominations may be made from the floor. A formal ballot, permitting write-in votes for other candidates, shall be presented by mail to all active members by September 1. Write-in votes must indicate a formal second, and willingness by the candidate to serve. A majority vote for each office on ballots returned by September 15 shall constitute election.

C. Elected officers and at-large directors shall take office on January 1 and shall be installed at the winter meeting.

Section 3: Vacancies

A vacancy occurring in any elected office of GSPS shall temporarily be filled by the Board of Directors until the next regular general meeting.

Section 4: Termination of Office

Any elected officer who fails to comply substantially with requirements and procedures set out in these by-laws or with directed action of the board within the terms of these by-laws may be removed by a two-thirds vote of the board.

Article IX: Duties of Elected Officers

Section 1: President

The President shall preside at general and special meetings of GSPS, the Board of Directors, and shall perform such other duties as ordinarily pertain to this office. The President shall appoint officers as set forth in Article IV, Section 2, committees, assistants to the officers, and such special committees deemed necessary, with the approval of the board, and shall serve as ex-officio member of all committees.

Section 2: Vice-President

The Vice -President shall preside at all meetings in the absence of or at the request of the President and shall assist the President as requested. The Vice-President shall serve as chairperson of the programs committee to plan meetings of GSPS.

Section 3: Secretary

The Secretary shall conduct correspondence of GSPS as directed by the President or the board and shall record the minutes of meetings of the Board of Directors and business meetings of GSPS.

Section 4: Treasurer

The Treasurer shall:

- a. receive and (upon presentation of sufficient backup invoices, detailed requests for reimbursement, etc.) disburse monies of GSPS.
- b. report such bank balances, receipts and disbursements by category at each meeting of the Board of Directors, Audit Committee, or, upon special request, to any member in good standing.
- c. make the financial records available upon request to the Board of Directors, Audit Committee, or any member in good standing.

Section 6: At-Large Directors

The At-Large Directors shall attend board meetings, lend their wisdom and advice to the board, and perform such other tasks as may be asked of them by the President.

Section 7: Permanent Files

All officers shall keep permanent files of their activities and shall transfer such files to their successors by the time of the January general membership meeting.

Article X: Duties of Appointed Officers

Section 1: Editors

The Reach of Song Editor shall serve as chairman of the Editorial Committee and shall compile and publish the GSPS anthology, *The Reach of Song*.

The Newsletter Editor shall be responsible for the compilation and quarterly publication of the official newsletter of the GSPS.

Other editors as needed shall compile and publish such other approved publications as the Board may, from time to time, direct.

Section 2: Webmaster

The Webmaster shall be responsible for maintaining and updating the official webpage of GSPS. The Webmaster may recruit help, as needed, from members in good standing.

Section 3: Librarian

The Librarian, should one be appointed, shall be in charge of the permanent library of GSPS, which shall be maintained in an area designated by the Board of Directors. The library shall contain records of the society and books for reference and research. Guidelines for the use of the library shall be established by the Board of Directors. The GSPS library is named the Harold and Doris Random Memorial Library.

Section 4: Historian

The Historian, should one be appointed, shall maintain a cumulative record of GSPS business, activities, projects and publicity.

Section 5: Parliamentarian

The Parliamentarian, should one be appointed, shall be qualified in Parliamentary procedures, shall assist any officer or committee Chairperson, upon request, and shall attend meetings of the GSPS and the Board of Directors.

Article XI: Committees

Committees may include Audit, Membership, Program, Contests, Youth Contests, Reach of Song, Editorial, Poetry In the Schools, Newsletter and such others as may be appointed by the President and/or the Board of Directors.

All committee chairpersons shall maintain permanent records of the activities of their committees and shall transfer such records to their successors prior to the January general membership meeting.

Article XII: Poetry Contests

Section 1: Judges

Each contest shall be judged by one or more competent judges. No member of the society shall be allowed to judge a GSPS contest except for the Youth Contest.

Section 2: Other Criteria

All poems entered in the contests shall be mailed to the GSPS designated address and delivered to the contest chairman who shall hold in confidence all clues to the identity of the contestants until such time as the contests have been judged and the results announced.

Article XIII: Publications

Section 1: Newsletter

GSPS shall issue an official newsletter.

Section 2: Books

GSPS shall issue such books, anthologies, and other publications as approved by the Board of Directors.

Article XIV: Parliamentary Authority

Sturgis's *The Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure*, current edition, shall govern procedures of GSPS not covered in these by-laws.

Article XV: Amendments

Amendments to these by-laws proposed by any active member shall be filed with the Secretary. The proposed amendments shall be presented to the active members by mail (electronic or otherwise) and shall require a two-thirds affirmative vote of ballots returned to the Secretary at least seven (7) days before the next regular meeting of the Board of Directors to become part of these by-laws.

Article XVI: Dissolution

Section 1: Member Exemption

No part of the assets or income of this organization shall ever inure to the any officer of individual members thereof or to the benefit of any other single individual.

Section 2: Asset Distribution

Upon dissolution of the GEORGIA STATE POETRY SOCIETY, INC., the Board of Directors shall designate a literary or educational organization exempt under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code to whom the GSPS funds shall be distributed.

Record of Adoption and Amendments

By-laws of GSPS, adopted 1979

First revision, approved by members 9/08/80

Second revision, approved by Board of Directors 1/12/91 and subsequently approved by member ballot, March 1, 1991

Third revision, approved by Board of Directors 4/5/97 and subsequently approved by member ballot, 4/19/97

Fourth revision, approved by Board of Directors 10/07/00 and subsequently approved by member ballot, 1/6/01

Fifth revision, approved by Board of Directors 4/21/07

Sixth revision, approved by Board of Directors and subsequently approved by member ballot, 7/20/2013