

South Dakota World Languages Association Constitution

I. Name

The name of this organization shall be the South Dakota World Languages Association (referred to hereafter as the Association).

II. Purposes

The purposes of this organization shall be: (1) to promote the study of world languages at all levels of public and private education within the state of South Dakota, (2) to advocate for the study of world languages, cultures and literatures, (3) to maintain contacts with state and national agencies that have decision-making roles regarding world languages, and (4) to sustain an active program of professional development for teachers of world languages.

III. Membership

Any individual, state or national agency, or private concern that supports the purpose of the organization is eligible for membership in the Association. Membership shall be for one year from one annual conference to the next. There shall be no reduction in dues for members who join after the annual conference.

IV. Meetings

The date and place of the annual meeting of the Association shall be determined each year at the previous annual meeting. The date and place of the annual meeting shall be disseminated through print and electronic means to all current members. Additional meetings may be organized for the purpose of professional development. No official business shall be conducted at these additional meetings.

V. Executive Board: Officers and Duties

The officers of the Association shall constitute the Executive Board. Officers shall include a President, Secretary-Treasurer, and Webmaster, and shall serve two-year terms. Officers may serve for more than one term. The President shall be responsible for managing the affairs of the organization and shall be the primary liaison between the Association, national and regional organizations and state entities. The President shall present a report on the state of the Association at the annual meeting. The Secretary-Treasurer shall keep records of all meetings and shall keep the accounts of the organization. The Secretary-Treasurer shall present a written report to the organization at its annual meeting. The Webmaster shall be responsible for the Association's website and its listserv.

The Association may choose to designate an Executive Director who shall assist the Executive Board and the Steering Committee in their tasks. The Executive Director may also be assigned supplementary tasks in the area of membership, grant development and fund raising. The term of the Executive Director shall be three years; the term is renewable.

VI. Steering Committee

A Steering Committee, consisting of those members of the Association who assume leadership roles in the Association for any given year, shall be designated at the Association's annual meeting. This body shall be responsible for managing the general course of the Association's operations and making decisions when it is not possible to put these decisions to a vote of the entire membership.

VII. Terms of Office

All officers and committee members shall serve from January 1 through December 31. Their term of office shall begin the January following their October election or appointment.

VIII. Election of Officers

The Executive Board and the Steering Committee shall solicit the names of three to five SDWLA members who shall function as a nominating committee and shall prepare a slate of nominees for the members of the Association to consider, whenever the terms of current officers will expire or whenever an officer shall be unable to complete her/his term. The election of officers shall occur at the annual meeting of the Association.

IX. Dues

All members of the Association, with the exception of special emeritus members, shall be expected to pay annual dues. The dues structure shall be divided into individual and corporate categories and the exact amount of the dues for each level within the two categories shall be determined on an annual basis.

X. Amendments

The constitution of the Association may be amended by a vote of two-thirds of the membership at an annual meeting or by means of surface or electronic mail. Members shall receive notice of proposed amendments at least three weeks before their votes are expected.