



CONSTITUTION OF THE MID-SOUTH SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE I.

Name

Section 1. The Association shall be known as the Mid-South Sociological Association. The Mid-South region is herein defined to include the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia, Florida, and North Carolina..

Ratified Amendment (October 25, 2001)

Mid-South Region is herein defined to include the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and South Carolina. (Adds South Carolina to the Mid-South Region).

ARTICLE II.

Objectives

Section 1. The Mid-South Sociological Association is organized exclusively for educational and scientific purposes, including for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

Section 2. No part of the net earnings of the Mid-South Sociological Association shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, officers, or other private persons, except that the Association shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Section 1 hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the Association shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and 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 this constitution, the Association shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from Federal income tax under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law (or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under section 170 (c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

Section 3. Upon the dissolution of the Mid-South Sociological Association, the Council shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of the Association, dispose of all of the assets of the Association exclusively for purposes of the organization in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States internal Revenue Law), as the Council shall determine. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the Association is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

ARTICLE III.

Membership

Section 1. Members of the Association shall consist of two classes, Active and Student.

Ratified Amendment

Members of the Association shall consist of three classes, Active, Student, and Joint. (Adds the class, Joint Member).

Ratified Amendment (July 2003)

Members of the Association shall consist of four classes, Active, Graduate Student, Undergraduate Student, and Joint.

Section 2. To be eligible for Active membership, an applicant must have: (a) a master's degree, or equivalent professional training in sociology, or (b) substantial training in sociology, or (c) a master's degree or its equivalent or substantial professional achievement in a closely related field, provided that the applicant's interest and activities have a sociological orientation.

Section 3. To be eligible for Student membership, an applicant must be a registered undergraduate or graduate student in residence at an educational institution. Student membership may not exceed seven years.

Ratified Amendment (July 2003)

To be eligible for Undergraduate Student or Graduate Student membership, an applicant must be a registered undergraduate or graduate student in residence at an educational institution.

- Section 4. Both classes of members shall have the right to attend all meetings of the Association. Only Active members shall have the right to vote.

Ratified Amendment

All classes of members shall have the right to attend all meetings of the Association. Only Active members shall have the right to vote. (Includes Joint Members).

Ratified Amendment (July 2003)

All classes of members shall have the right to attend all meetings of the Association. Only Active, Joint, and Graduate Student members shall have the right to vote.

- Section 5. Decisions concerning eligibility for membership shall be made by the Council.
- Section 6. The dues for each class of membership shall be determined by the Council.
- Section 7. Upon failure to pay annual dues, all privileges of membership in the Association shall be suspended on the first day of the fiscal year.
- Section 8. To be eligible for Joint Membership, an applicant must be the spouse of an Active member or a Student member and must be eligible for Active membership or Student membership. (Adds a section on eligibility for Joint Membership).

ARTICLE IV.

Officers

- Section 1. The elected officers of the Association shall be a President, a President Elect, a Vice President, a Vice President Elect, and the Chair of the following standing committees: Nominations, Membership, Professions, Minorities, and Women. The President Elect and Vice President Elect shall serve for one year and shall then automatically become President and Vice President respectively for one year terms. The Chair of Nominations shall serve for one year. The Chairs of Membership, Professions, Minorities, and Women shall serve for two years. The Chairs of Membership and Minorities shall be elected in odd years: the Chairs of Professions and Women shall be elected in even years.

Ratified Amendment

The elected officers of the Association shall be a President, a President Elect, a Vice President, a Vice President Elect, and the Chairs of the following standing committees: Nominations, Membership, Professions, Minorities, Women, and Small and Community Colleges. The Chairs of Membership, Professions, Minorities, Women, and Small and Community Colleges shall serve for two years. The Chairs of Professions, Women, and small and Community Colleges shall be elected in even years. (Adds the Committee on Small and Community Colleges).

Section 2. The appointed officers of the Association shall be the Secretary-Treasurer and the Editor or Co-Editors of the official journal of the Association. The Secretary-Treasurer and the Editor or Co-Editors shall be appointed by the Council for three year terms.

Ratified Amendment

The appointed officers of the Association shall be the Secretary-Treasurer, the Editor or Co-Editors of the official journal of the Association, and the Editor of the official newsletter of the Association. The Secretary-Treasurer and Editors shall be appointed by the Council for three year terms. (Adds the Editor of the official newsletter of the Association).

ARTICLE V. Duties of the Officers

Section 1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association and of the Council.

Section.2. The President Elect shall be responsible for the program for the annual meeting.

Section 3. The Vice President shall chair all meetings of the Association and the Council in the absence of the President. He or she shall be responsible for the Graduate Student Session at the annual meeting. He or she shall prepare and mail all newsletters.

Section 4. The Vice President Elect shall be responsible for the Undergraduate Student Session at the annual meeting.

Section 5. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be the recording and budgetary officer of the Association.

ARTICLE VI.

The Council

- Section 1. The Council shall be the governing body of the Association except insofar as the constitution delegates governmental functions to specific officers or committees.
- Section 2. The Council shall consist of the Past President, the President, the President Elect, the Vice President, the Vice President Elect, the Secretary-Treasurer, the Chairs of Nominations, Membership, Professions, Minorities and Women, and the Editor of the official journal of the Association. In the event of Co-Editors, the two together shall hold one position on the Council.

Ratified Amendment

The Council shall consist of the Past President, the President, the President Elect, the Vice President, the Vice President Elect, the Secretary-Treasurer, the Chairs of Nominations, Membership, Professions, Minorities, Women, and Small and Community Colleges, the Editor or Editors of the official newsletter of the Association. (Adds the Chair of the Committee on Small and Community Colleges and the Editor of the official newsletter of the Association).

- Section 3. As the governing body of the Association, the Council shall be responsible for the formulation of policy and the general direction of the affairs of the Association, and shall call regular and special meetings of the Association. The Council shall have the power to fill vacancies in its membership occasioned by death, resignation, failure to perform duties of the office, failure to maintain membership, or failure to elect. Such appointees shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term. The authority to interpret the constitution resides in the Council. When the Council is not in session, the President together with the Secretary-Treasurer shall make such provisional rulings as are necessary for the operation of the Association, subject to review by the Council at its next meeting.
- Section 4. The Council may make decisions to cooperate or affiliate with other societies and associations and may appoint representatives to meet with said societies and associations.
- Section 5. The President shall call the Council into session at least three times a year. At least two sessions shall take place at the annual membership meeting, one prior to and one following the general business session. A third session shall take place between the annual membership meetings.
- Section 6. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum of the Council.

ARTICLE VII.

Nominations and Elections

- Section 1. The Nominations Committee shall consist of the Chair elected by the voting membership and one person selected by the Chair from each of the states in the Mid-South region. The Chair shall present these names to the Council for approval prior to the annual business meeting. The Chair is a neutral position and does not vote.
- Section 2. With the exception of members of the Nominating Committee, all persons holding membership in the Association both prior to the previous meeting and currently are eligible for nomination for office.

Ratified Amendment

With the exception of members of the Nominating Committee, all persons holding Active membership in the Association both prior to the previous meeting and currently are eligible for nomination for office. (Restricts nomination for office to Active Members).

Ratified Amendment (July 2003)

With the exception of members of the Nominating Committee, all persons holding Active and Graduate Student membership in the Association both prior to the previous meeting and currently are eligible for nomination to office.

- Section 3. Any member of the Association may propose a candidate for office.
- Section 4. All names of prospective candidates for office shall be submitted to the Chair of the Nominations Committee.
- Section 5. The Chair of the Nominations Committee shall select an Election Committee comprised of self and two others. All shall count the votes and sign a tally sheet. This sheet and both the Nomination Committee's ballots and the final ballots shall be submitted to the Council at the first Council meeting prior to the general business session. In the case of a tie vote, the Council shall break the tie with the President abstaining. In the event the tie remains, the President shall determine the outcome.
- Section 6. Elected officers and chairs shall assume office immediately following the general business session at the annual membership meeting.
- Section 7. The Secretary-Treasurer shall preserve a record of the results of all elections.

ARTICLE VIII.

Committees

Section 1. The Standing Committees of the Association shall be the Nominations Committee, the Membership Committee, the Committee on the Profession, the Committee on Women, the Committee on Minorities, and the Program Committee.

Ratified Amendment

The Standing Committees of the Association shall be the Nominations Committee, the Membership Committee, the Committee on the Profession, the Committee on Women, the Committee on Minorities, the Committee on Small and Community Colleges, and the Program Committee. (Adds the Committee on Small and Community Colleges).

Section 2. The Nominations Committee shall consist of the Chair elected by the voting membership and one person from each of the member states.

Section 3. The Membership Committee shall consist of the Chair elected by the voting membership and one person from each of the member states. These persons shall be selected by the Chair.

Section 4. The Committees on the Profession, Women and Minorities shall consist of the Chair, elected by the voting membership, and persons selected by the Chair.

Ratified Amendment

The Committees on the Profession, Women, Minorities, and Small and Community colleges shall consist of the Chair, elected by the voting membership, and persons selected by the Chair. (Adds the Committee on Small and Community Colleges).

Section 5. The Program Committee shall consist of the President Elect as Chair, the Vice President Elect and the Secretary-Treasurer and any other persons designated by the Chair. The Program Committee shall function to coordinate the annual meeting of the Association.

Section 6. The outgoing Chair of each Standing Committee shall be a nonvoting member of the Committee for one year.

Section 7. Each Committee shall abide by the budget as approved by the Council, and shall make a report to the Association each year at the general business session at the annual meeting of the membership.

Section 8. The Council may establish special committees as may be necessary for the conduct of the Association's affairs.

ARTICLE IX.

Meetings

Section 1. The President shall call at least one meeting of the entire membership each year, at a time and place to be determined by the Council. At such meeting there shall be at least one general business session at which the Officers and Chairs shall report to the Association and respond to questions from the membership.

Section 2. At the general business session, a majority of the voting members present may place items on the agenda for the Council meeting. The Council shall report on such agenda items at the next general business meeting.

ARTICLE X.

Budget

Section 1. Prior to the beginning of each fiscal year, a budget covering all anticipated expenditures and income of the Association for that fiscal year shall be submitted by the Secretary-Treasurer to the Council for approval.

Section 2. The budgeted expenditures shall be binding on the Secretary-Treasurer.

ARTICLE XI.

Special Funds and Endowments

Section 1. The Association may solicit and receive special funds and endowments. Acceptance and expenditure of such funds shall be authorized by the Council.

ARTICLE XII.

Parliamentary Authority

Section 1. The rules contained in the current edition of *Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the Association in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with this constitution and any special rules of order the Association may adopt and any statutes applicable to this Association.

ARTICLE XIII.

Amendment of the Constitution

- Section 1. The constitution may be amended at the annual meeting by a two-thirds affirmative vote of those voting at the general business session or by a two-thirds affirmative vote of those voting in a referendum submitted to the voting members of the Association.
- Section 2. Amendments may be proposed by the Council or by petition of at least three percent of the voting members of the Association. Amendments must be sent to the Secretary-Treasurer at least sixty days before the annual meeting and must be forwarded to the voting membership at least thirty days before the annual meeting.