

**Constitution of the North American Association
For the Study of
Welsh Culture and History**

As Revised 6/16/04

Article I

NAME. The name of this organization shall be the North American Association for the Study of Welsh Culture and History (whereas *culture* is defined in a broad, inclusive sense: ... *the concepts, language, habits, skills, arts, instruments, institutions, etc. of a given people...*

Article II

PURPOSE. The purpose of this Society shall be to: (1) promote scholarship on all aspects of Welsh history and culture; (2) develop connections between teachers and scholars who are committed to the study of Welsh culture, history, and language in the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom; (3) provide an intellectual forum in which teachers and scholars of Welsh culture and history can share their research and teaching experience; and (4) provide support for the study of Welsh – North American culture and history.

Article III

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Members of the North American Association for the Study of Welsh Culture and History are those who in the judgment of the Executive Committee are interested in and committed to the study and teaching of the history, culture, and language of Wales, and are capable of promoting the purpose of the Association. The Association welcomes teachers and scholars from all disciplines and also welcomes applications from individuals without an academic affiliation, but who are supportive of and committed to the study of Wales and Welsh culture and language.

Section 2. All members in good standing shall have an equal right to vote and to take the floor at all regular meetings.

Section 3. Individuals become members of the North American Association for the Study of Welsh Culture and History by submitting their name and contact information to the Secretary/Treasurer and paying biennial dues.

Section 4. Biennial dues and membership criteria shall be determined by the membership upon recommendation of the Executive Committee. Membership action upon questions regarding modification of the dues or criteria for membership may be taken at a regular, full membership meeting, or by mail ballot. A majority of favorable votes is required for modification of dues and membership criteria.

Article IV

OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Section 1. The elected officers of the Association shall be a President, a Vice President (also serving as President-elect), Secretary-Treasurer, and five Members-at-large. All officers must be members-in-good-standing of the Association. There shall be an attempt to maintain some degree of balance between disciplinary areas as well as geographical balance. These elected officers, along with the appointed Chairperson of the Executive Committee in Wales and the appointed Program Chairperson, shall serve as the voting members of the Executive Committee of the Association (see section 5).

Section 2. The **President** of the Association shall serve a two-year term office. The duties of the President shall include: (1) presiding at official association meetings, beginning the term of office as the final item of business in the concluding year of his/her predecessor; (2) appointing either annually or biannually, with the approval of the Executive Committee, a Program Committee; (3) making appointments with the approval of a majority of the Executive Committee, to fill vacancies which may occur in the unexpired terms of any elected or appointed officer of the Association; (4) supervising arrangements for the official meetings of the Executive Committee and the Association membership; (5) appointing as necessary a nominating committee for the election of new officers; (6) appointing the Chair and the membership of the Executive Committee in Wales; (7) appointing an Editor for a Conference Proceedings or Journal; and (8) in general, appointing individuals to fulfill specific association roles and duties with the approval of the Executive Committee.

Section 3. The **Vice President** shall be elected for a two-year term with the Association and also serve as President-elect. This officer shall serve on the Executive Committee, preside at official meetings in the absence of the President, and undertake other duties as prescribed by the President and Executive Committee. As President-elect, it is expected that this individual will serve as President for two years immediately following his/her term of office as Vice President.

Section 4. The **Secretary/Treasurer** shall be elected to a two year term of office concurrent with that of the President. Duties shall include: (1) writing and maintaining the minutes of official association meetings (typically those of the Executive Committee and the full membership) and keeping records of the official correspondence of the Association; (2) collecting dues from the membership and executing the expenditures of funds and the payments of bills on behalf of the Association; (3) circulating official notices to the membership regarding time and place of meetings, as well as maintaining a membership roster and information on Association mailings; (4) developing and maintaining membership renewal and recruitment materials and forms; (5) coordinating the production and distribution of the Conference proceedings and all other association publications, and (6) serving as an *ex officio* member of the Program Committee.

Section 5. The voting members of the **Executive Committee** shall consist of the President, the Vice President (President-elect), the Secretary/Treasurer; the Chair of the Advisory Council, the Program Chairperson, and the Members-at-large. The **five Members-at-large** shall be elected from the Association membership and serve three year, staggered terms of office. (Non-voting *ex-officio* members of the Executive Committee are described in Section 7). The Executive Committee will hold at least one annual meeting. The duties of the Executive shall include: (1) authorizing and approving the expenditure of the Association's funds – particularly for expenditures over \$100.00 that are not related to the association's meetings or conferences; (2) deciding upon the time and place of the Association's conferences and meetings; (3) reviewing and voting upon Presidential appointees to the Executive Committee; and (4) recommending to the membership modifications in dues, membership criteria, or in the Association's organizational structure and Constitution.

Section 6. Elections to fill the offices of the Association shall be held at each regular meeting – at least every other year. Candidates for office shall consist of members-in-good-standing whose names are submitted by the Nominating Committee or submitted by another member-in-good-standing in response to a call for nominations. That call will be issued by the Nominating Committee a month prior to the election. Candidates may also be nominated from the floor at the time of the election. Candidates may also be nominated from the floor at the time of

the election. With the exception of the position of Secretary/Treasurer, no member may serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office.

Section 7. At the discretion of the President (and with the approval of the Executive Committee) an **Editor of a Conference Proceedings or Journal** shall be appointed for a three year term. The duties and responsibilities of the Editor shall be to collect and edit manuscripts and papers delivered at Association sponsored meetings and conferences. The Editor shall serve as a non-voting member of the Executive Committee. Other presidential appointees, normally for terms not to exceed three years, may include a Newsletter Editor, an Archivist, an Internet Homepage Sponsor, etc. Such individuals must be members-in-good-standing, and they shall serve as non-voting members of the Executive Committee.

Article V

COMMITTEES AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN WALES

Section 1. A **Program Committee** of at least four members-in-good-standing shall be appointed (on either an annual or biennial basis) by the President, who will normally designate one individual as Chair with the approval of the Executive Committee. This committee shall have the responsibility for establishing a conference theme, announcing and publicizing the conference, reviewing papers and proposals, and in general, planning and implementing the program. The work of the Program Committee shall be done in concert with the Secretary/Treasurer (who serves as an *ex-officio* member of the committee), the host institution, and the Executive Committee as a whole.

Section 2. A **Nominating Committee** of at least two members-in-good-standing, one to be designated as Chair, shall be appointed by the President at least one month before each annual (or biennial) meeting of the Association. At this meeting the Nominating Committee shall present at least one nominee for each officer position that is open and certify that the individual is a member-in-good-standing with the Association.

Section 3. The **Executive Committee in Wales** shall consist of at least three scholars of Welsh history or language, who are based in the United Kingdom (typically in Wales). The Chair of the Executive Committee in Wales shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Executive Committee and serve for a two year term, and also serve as a voting member of the Executive Committee. Other members of the Council will also be appointed by the President. The Executive Committee in Wales will also be appointed by the President. The Executive Committee in Wales will: advise the Association on scholarship and teaching on Welsh history, culture and language, that is current in Wales; help develop connections with British based scholars and scholarly organizations focused on Wales and the Welsh; and in general, offer advice and support to the North American Association for the Study of Welsh Culture and History.

Article VI

MEETINGS. The Association will have at least one general meeting of the entire membership on a biennial basis. The Executive Committee shall meet on a biennial basis.

ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER. The Association shall run its meetings and conduct votes in accordance with *Robert's Rules of Order*.

Article VII

AMENDMENTS. This Constitution may be amended in whole or in part in the following manner: (1) proposed changes must be endorsed by at least two members-in-good-

standing and presented in writing to the Secretary-Treasurer at least one month prior to a general meeting of the Association's membership; (2) the Secretary/Treasurer shall present for discussion the proposed changes as an item of business at that meeting; and (3) the proposed amendments which receive a majority of the returned ballots shall be incorporated into the Constitution prior to the next official meeting of the Association.

Article VIII

DISSOLUTION. The Association may be dissolved in the following manner; (1) a proposal to dissolve must be endorsed by at least two members-in-good-standing and presented to the Secretary/Treasurer at least one month prior to the general meeting of the Association; (2) the Secretary/Treasurer shall present the proposal for discussion as an item of business at the next Association meeting; (3) if the dissolution proposal is approved by a two-thirds majority of those present, it must be transmitted by mail to all the members of the Association; (4) if a majority of the returned ballots (within six weeks) favor dissolution, the Secretary/Treasurer shall certify the results at a meeting of the Executive Committee; (5) the Executive Committee shall set a date not more than six months in advance for formal dissolution of the organization; (6) within seven days of the formal dissolution – after all outstanding association bills and debts have been paid -- the Secretary Treasurer shall transfer remaining funds in the following manner; the funds will be distributed to Welsh cultural and educational organizations in North America as determined by the executive committee.

In the event that no membership meeting is held in the year in which a dissolution proposal is received by the Secretary/Treasurer, so that (2) above cannot be executed, then the proposal shall be transmitted to the President who will confer with the Executive Committee. Upon approval of the proposal by two-thirds majority of the Executive Committee, the Secretary/Treasurer shall proceed with the mail balloting process as described in (3) above, and the remaining steps shall be pursued in order. The Secretary/Treasurer shall make a final financial report to the Executive Committee after all funds are disbursed.

Revised June 16, 2004; Revised June 22, 2002; Originally adopted by the Executive Committee and passed by unanimous vote by the membership on June 1, 1996.