

# **Bylaws of the Kentucky Storytelling Association, Inc.**

As of May 30, 2009.

This version supersedes all earlier versions of KSA bylaws.

## **Article 1: Mission**

The Kentucky Storytelling Association (KSA) is a not-for-profit membership organization whose mission is to develop on-going support and appreciation for the art of storytelling in the Commonwealth.

## **Article 2: Membership**

- A. Membership shall be open to any person interested in storytelling.
- B. No person shall be denied membership on the basis of race, age, religion, national origin, political persuasion, sex, sexual orientation, or any other unfair discriminatory criterion.
- C. Membership shall be conferred upon payment of annual dues, the amount of which shall be set by the Board of Directors.
- D. Dues shall be paid on joining and yearly thereafter. All dues are nonrefundable.
- E. Every member shall have the right to participate in meetings of the membership, to cast one vote in all matters put before the membership for consideration, to nominate and participate in the election of Directors and Officers as provided by these Bylaws, and to serve on the Board of Directors or on committees.
- F. Every member shall receive the KSA newsletter and all other membership notices and mailings by electronic and/or other means.
- G. Every member will have access to KSA data to connect them with each other; however, any member also has the right to refuse to allow personal data known by the organization to be released to other members.

### **Article 3: Membership Meetings**

- A. There shall be an annual meeting of the membership the first or second weekend in November, with meeting location rotating from quadrant to quadrant within the Commonwealth of Kentucky.
- B. Written notice of a general membership meeting shall be given to all members, at least six months prior to the meeting. Reminders will be included in the KSA newsletter.
- C. Quadrant membership meetings are encouraged to be held, in accordance with the Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation of KSA, twice yearly at a location and time to be determined by interested members residing within the quadrant. Minutes or a report shall be forwarded to KSA.
- D. All meetings Special meetings of the general membership may be called by a simple majority of the Board of Directors. Special meetings must be held within the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Notices of special general membership meetings shall state the purpose(s) of the meeting and shall be given by mail not less than thirty (30) days prior to the meeting to all members. At a special meeting, only the business stated in the notice may be transacted.
- E. All meetings are open to the public.
- F. Member Decision-making
  - 1) At a membership meeting: A quorum of 5% of members in good standing is required to make decisions. A decision of the membership shall be made by a majority of the members present and voting. No proxy voting is allowed.
  - 2) By mailed Ballot: A decision of the general membership may be arrived at by majority of vote of paper, fax, and email ballots cast, after presentation of the proposal to the general membership by mailing to the entire membership (either by direct mailing or by an article in the newsletter mailed to all members). A proposal presentation must include specific wording of the ballot for vote, the vote deadline, and appropriate mail and email addresses and fax number for response. A minimum of twenty days from postal distribution of ballots is required

for response before vote tabulation. A member decision by ballot requires that the total number of ballots collected is at least ten percent of the current membership; no tabulation of votes may be performed unless this minimum number is reached. The Board may further solicit the returning of ballots after the deadline has passed to reach this required level of response. Further solicitation may be by mail, newsletter, website, email, telephone, or any other means, provided that either all members are solicited, or solicitation is performed in a neutral manner (for example, by telephoning every third name on the membership list) and providing that no tabulation of votes has yet been performed.

#### **Article 4: Board of Directors**

- A. The Board of Directors shall consist of six directors and four officers, all members in good standing.
- B. No one may serve on the Board of Directors, in any combination of director or officer positions, for more than six consecutive years. Anyone serving for six consecutive years must be off the board at least three years before returning to board service.
- C. All members of the Board of Directors will serve without compensation for their services.
- D. The power of the Board of the Directors is to conduct the business of KSA in accordance with its mission, including general supervision of all finances, membership, and following applicable federal, state, and local laws.
- E. Members of the Board of Directors are elected by a simple majority of votes cast by the members by mailed ballot as specified in Article 3, Section F, 2 of these Bylaws. Ballots shall be mailed to members by September 15<sup>th</sup>. Member responses must be postmarked by October 15<sup>th</sup>.
- F. Meetings
  - 1) The Board of Directors shall meet in November, February, May and August beginning in November 2007. A quorum shall consist of 51% of Board members.

- 2) Decisions must be made by a simple majority vote of those present.
- 3) One meeting must be scheduled at the same location, and within 24 hours after, the annual membership meeting. This meeting shall serve as the first meeting of the newly elected Board of Directors. At this meeting the schedule will be set for the three additional regular meetings of this Board of Directors for the coming year. Notice of the time and location of Board meetings shall be provided to all members by announcements in the newsletter, or by electronic and/or other means.
- 4) Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be requested by any member of the Board of Directors. The request shall be given to the President in writing through electronic and/or other means and shall state the purpose(s) of the meeting. Upon receiving the request, the President must poll the members of the Board of Directors by sending them a copy of the request by electronic and/or other means. If a majority of the Board of Directors agrees a special meeting is needed, the President shall schedule the special meeting and notify Members of the Board by electronic and/or other means. At a special meeting, only the business stated in the notice may be transacted.
- 5) All meetings of the Board of Directors are open to the public.

#### G. The Six Directors

- 1) a. Four directors must each reside in a different quadrant of the state and two directors may reside anywhere.  
b. The boundaries of the quadrants shall be set by the Board of Directors.
- 2) In the event that no members residing within the quadrant are willing to serve on the Board of Directors, then an at-large director will be elected to fill this seat.
- 3) Each director must be willing to serve on at least one standing committee.

- 4) Directors are elected for two-year terms and may not serve more than two consecutive terms.
- H. Officers: The four officers shall be the President, President-elect, Treasurer, and Secretary.
- 1) The President-elect shall be elected every year. The President-elect shall serve a two-year term, the first year as President-elect and the second year as President. Beginning in 2007 the Secretary will be elected for a two-year term. Beginning in 2008 the Treasurer will be elected for a two-year term.
  - 2) All officers must be KSA members in good standing.
  - 3) Officers are limited to no more than two consecutive terms in the same office.
- I. Vacancies: The Board of Directors will appoint by 2/3 consent any member in good standing to fill a vacated seat until the term expires. Members shall be notified of any interim appointments in the next newsletter.
- J. Duties and Responsibilities of Officers
- 1) The President is responsible for organizing meetings by setting the meeting agenda and presiding at meetings. The President's signature is also required on all checks over \$100.00. The President is also responsible for communicating information to the membership as necessary.
  - 2) The President-elect shall assist the president and shall preside at meetings in the absence of the President. The President-elect shall maintain the membership roster and notify the Membership Committee of new and renewing members, and provide lists for committees and board members as necessary.
  - 3) The Treasurer will maintain the checking account and will disburse money as required to conduct KSA business as approved by the Board of Directors and prepare all financial records and reports.
  - 4) The Secretary is responsible for taking minutes at all meetings, sending meeting notifications as required in these bylaws, opening mail, making deposits, taking in

cash, issuing receipts, and forwarding financial matters to the Treasurer.

- K. Failure of a Board member to attend two consecutive board meetings, whether or not for good cause, shall result in automatic removal.

## **Article 5: Committees**

A. There shall be provision for both standing and ad hoc committees. All committees are committees of the Board and only have the authority specifically delegated to them by these bylaws or action of the Board of Directors.

- 1) A quorum shall be 51% of committee members.
- 2) Committees shall keep minutes to be reported to the Board of Directors.
- 3) Each committee shall include at least one member of the Board of Directors, except for the Nominating Committee.
- 4) Terms: Committee appointments are for a one-year term generally the period between the annual meetings. There is no limit on the number of terms a member may serve.
- 5) Eligibility: With the exception of the Nominating Committee, committee membership is open to anyone including non-members. Non-member committee appointees must possess specific expertise needed by the committee. (Examples include, but are not limited to, a Certified Public Accountant serving on the Finance or Audit Committees.)
- 6) Appointments: The President with the advice and consent of the Board of Directors appoints committee chairs.
- 7) Reporting: Committee chairs, or their representatives, must report on committee activities at each meeting of the Board of Directors.

B. Standing Committees

- 1) Programs Committee: The Programs Committee shall propose conferences, workshops, and performance

venues to the Board of Directors, and coordinate such activities upon approval by the Board.

- 2) Membership Committee: The Membership Committee shall develop materials and strategies for recruiting new members and renewing existing members, propose membership dues levels and categories of dues, member benefits, and services.
- 3) Finance Committee: The Treasurer shall chair The Finance Committee. It oversees and monitors the fiscal affairs of KSA, recommends changes in fiscal practice, and develops a proposed annual budget for presentation to the Board of Directors.
- 4) Communications Committee: The Communications Committee shall maintain contact with all other committees and the Board of Directors and relay information to the membership of KSA by overseeing KSA publications, including but not limited to, the KSA website and its newsletter/journal.
- 5) Fundraising Committee: The Fundraising Committee shall investigate potential activities to generate funds and explore grant opportunities and develop proposals.
- 6) Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee shall consist of the immediate past-President, who may not serve as the committee chair, and two other members not planning to run for election. Nominating Committee members need not be board members. This committee shall identify potential candidates for annual election to the Board of Directors and for appointment to committees, facilitate the annual election of members of the Board, and recommend candidates to fill interim vacancies on the Board.
- 7) Audit Committee: The Audit Committee is responsible for conducting a yearly review of the KSA financial records and submitting a report of their findings to the KSA Board at the February Board Meeting. Neither the Treasurer, the Secretary nor the prior year holders of these offices may serve on the Audit Committee. Only

one member of the Finance Committee may serve on the Audit Committee.

- C. Ad hoc Committees: The Board of Directors may authorize the appointment of committees to aid KSA in achieving its goals. These committees shall be reauthorized on an annual basis or would serve until a task or goal is accomplished, if less than twelve months.

## **Article 6: Hiring and Eligibility**

- A. Board Powers: The Board may hire or contract the services of individuals to carry out the mission and duties of KSA. The Board may hire, fire, or set compensation of an individual by majority vote, except as limited by law or by statement elsewhere in these Bylaws.
- B. Employees: No individual hired as an employee may simultaneously serve on the Board of Directors. An individual hired as an employee is expected to be a member of KSA and to exercise all rights and powers of membership.
- C. Contractors: An individual contracted by the Board or committee member to perform a specific task for monetary or other compensation may simultaneously serve on the Board of Directors or its committees. However, no Board member or committee member may vote on his or her own contracting or compensation, or on the contracting of his or her relatives and no decision on such matters may be taken if the presence of such a director is necessary to constitute a quorum. No Board member or committee member may receive monetary compensation for serving on the Board, serving as an Officer, or chairing or serving on a committee of the Board.

**Article 7: Parliamentary Authority:** The parliamentary authority shall be Simplified Roberts Rules of Order.

## **Article 8: Amendments**

- A. These bylaws may be amended when necessary by two-thirds majority of members of the Board of Directors.

- B. Any member of KSA may propose specific changes to the bylaws through a petition signed by at least ten members and submitted to the secretary to be sent out to all members with notice of the next annual membership meeting. The notice shall include the specific proposed change and the name of the signatories requesting the change. Voting will be conducted in accordance with mailed ballot provisions (Article 3, Section F, Item 2) with the exception that a 2/3 majority of votes cast would be required to make the change
- C. Amendments that would jeopardize KSA tax-exempt 501(c)(3) status are forbidden.

**Article 9: Dissolution**

Any member of KSA may request dissolution of KSA by following the procedures given in Article 8, Section B, except that the petition submitted must be signed by at least ten members or 50% of the total membership, whichever number is smallest. Dissolution of KSA will follow procedures in Article XII of the Articles of Incorporation of Kentucky Storytelling Association, Inc.

**Article 10: Fiscal year**

The fiscal year of KSA shall be January through December.

End of bylaws