

CONSTITUTION
of the
KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF ENGLISH

(Revised June 9, 2006)

ARTICLE I - NAME

This body shall be called the Kansas Association of Teachers of English or KATE.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

Section 1. Said organization is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, or scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Section 2. No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization 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 and in article II of this constitution.

Section 3. No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the organization shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.

Section 4. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Section 5. Upon the dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a Court of Competent Jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the organization 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.

Section 6. The general scope of the Association's work shall include all phases of English teaching in the state – elementary, secondary, and college.

Section 7. The specific aims of the Association shall be fivefold: to promote excellence in English instruction; to conduct investigations relative to teaching English; to publish findings and

other matters of interest; to cooperate with other similar organizations throughout the country; to promote acquaintance and good fellowship among English teachers of the state.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The organization shall include voting and nonvoting memberships. The regular voting membership of this Association shall be open to English and language arts teachers active in elementary schools, secondary schools, and colleges of Kansas, and those retired from active service and to all others interested in the improvement of such teaching. Schools, libraries, or other institutions are eligible for nonvoting institutional membership. Honorary membership may be voted by the Executive Board as a recognition of members who have made unusually noteworthy contributions to the Association. Students preparing to be teachers of English and the language arts may become nonvoting members at a reduced rate.

Section 2. An annual membership fee established by the Executive Board shall be paid by each member and entitles each member to vote, hold office, and receive KATE publications. Nonvoting memberships whose current fees are paid shall be in good standing and entitled to receive KATE publications.

ARTICLE IV - ORGANIZATION

Section 1. Officers and Committees

1. The officers shall be a Second Vice-President, a First Vice-President, a President, an Immediate Past President, a Senior Past President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Membership Chair, a Marketing Chair, the editors of KATE Update, Kansas English, Young Kansas Writers, Younger Kansas Writers, and a Liaison Officer. There shall be an Executive Board consisting of thirty (30) members and all appointed and elected standing representatives to KATE and NCTE boards and committees. All members of the Executive Board are voting members.

2. The 30 members of the Executive Board shall be elected for terms of three years, one third to be chosen each year by the entire membership of the Association by ballot mailed one month before the spring meeting, from a slate of candidates chosen from the different levels of membership – elementary, middle school, junior high, senior high, two-year college, college, and university. After Executive Board members have served their elected terms, they shall be ineligible for re-election for a period of one year.

Section 2. Duties of Officers and Committees

1. The Second Vice-President shall (1) assist the First Vice-President in planning the annual conference; (2) begin preliminary planning of the annual conference to be held two years after he or she assumes office; (3) work with the membership chairperson and the marketing chairperson to recruit new members; and (4) choose from the Executive Board or from the general membership of the Association workers to assist with membership recruitment. The Second Vice-President shall, upon completion of his/her term of office, become the First Vice-President.

2. The First Vice-President shall (1) continue as program chair of the annual conference, which he or she began planning during his/her term as Second Vice-President; (2) preside in the absence of the President; (3) provide information for the Update in a timely manner, particularly information about the annual conference. The First Vice-President shall, upon completion of his/her term in office, succeed to the Office of President.

3. The President shall (1) preside at all meetings of the Executive Board and at all general meetings of the Association; (2) have general supervision of all Association business and activities, including programs for meetings; (3) approve all bills of over \$200.00 before they are paid by the treasurer; and (4) appoint someone to fill the unexpired terms of any officer of the Association or member of the Executive Board.

The President shall have the further duty to use all available means, especially the KATE Update, to acquaint the general membership with the activities of the Association. The President may, at his or her option, edit the Update which shall be published at least quarterly, or appoint an editor to assume this responsibility. The President shall, upon completion of his/her term in office, become the Immediate Past President.

4. The Immediate Past President shall (1) serve as a voting member of the Executive Board; (2) serve on the Nominating Committee; (3) prepare information packets for new members outlining the duties and responsibilities of the various committees and present these packets at the first meeting of the board attended by new members; (4) prepare letters of commendation for their service to outgoing board members and distribute them with suitable ceremony at a meeting of the board devoted to welcoming new board members and thanking those who are retiring; and (5) send letters of notification and congratulations to the appropriate supervisors of new Board members. Following his/her term of office, the Immediate Past President shall become Senior Past President.

5. The Senior Past President shall serve as Chair of the Nominating Committee.

6. The Secretary shall conduct the general business correspondence of the Association and file and preserve documents and records. The Secretary shall keep records of all business done at all meetings of the Executive Board, records of the programs and business of the annual KATE meetings, and records of any meetings held under the auspices of the Association as a whole.

7. The Treasurer shall receive and account for all monies and pay bills incurred by the organization and by members incurring approved expenses on behalf of the organization when they present a receipt and request for reimbursement. Bills over \$200.00 shall require the written or electronic approval of the president or vice president. Bills incurred on a regular basis for board-approved activities shall be paid as received. For these bills, the treasurer shall ask for board approval at the June board meeting (i.e., at the June meeting the board will vote to approve expenses associated with the October conference, publications, and other annual board activities requiring payment). The treasurer or president will arrange for an audit annually. The treasurer will be bonded at the expense of the Association, and will work with a committee of KATE executive board members to develop a budget yearly.

8. The Membership Chairperson shall (1) maintain the membership list of the association and direct the recruitment of new members; (2) report, as promptly as possible, renewing and incoming memberships to both the treasurer and the person charged with maintaining the association's computerized membership records and mailing list; and (3) instruct the editors to see that the honorary members receive copies of KATE publications.

9. The Marketing Chairperson shall be responsible for promoting the association and recruiting new members by supervising (1) the production of informative media about the association and (2) the distribution of these media to schools, universities, and other institutions interested in the association's mission.

10. The Editors shall edit and supervise the printing of KATE Update, Kansas English, Young Kansas Writers, and Younger Kansas Writers. The Editors may seek advice from the Executive Board on such matters as the content of the magazines, makeup, advertising, and other problems connected with their duties. The Editors shall receive a sum specified by the Executive Board to help defray expenses for correspondence, typing, *et cetera*.

11. The Liaison officer shall establish and maintain liaison between the Association and the National Council of Teachers of English in such a way that each of the organizations will be informed about the goals, activities, and membership of the other.

12. The Executive Board shall conduct all business and direct all activities of the Association, except such as are herein otherwise provided, with the authority to delegate to individuals or to committees such responsibility as it may deem advisable. Individuals appointed by the Executive Board (chairs of committees, both standing and ad hoc) shall report to that body at its regularly scheduled meetings.

13. Each Executive Board member may be assigned to serve on one of the standing committees and may also serve on one or more Ad Hoc committees.

Section 3. Nominating Committee

1. The Nominating Committee shall consist of the Senior Past President (as chair), Immediate Past President, and three (3) individuals selected from the Executive Board for a term of one year. The responsibility of this committee shall be to nominate officers in keeping with the stipulated restrictions of Section 4. Only individuals who have served on the Executive Board for one year shall be eligible for nomination to any office.

Section 4. Election and Appointment of Officers

In electing the officers each year, the membership, in a mailed ballot, shall vote on recommendations of the nominating committee, permitting in addition write-in nominations in keeping with Section 3. This ballot shall include nominees for both officers and Executive Board. It shall be submitted for vote mailed to the total membership of KATE in the spring issue of the KATE Update at least one month before the May-June meeting of the Executive Board with the election concluded by May 1.

2. The officers shall be installed at the fall meeting of the Executive Board.

3. The Second Vice-President, elected each year for a one-year term, shall, in subsequent years, automatically become the First Vice-President, the President, and Immediate Past-President.

4. The Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Chairperson, Marketing Chairperson and Liaison Officer shall be appointed and approved by the Board for two-year terms.

Section 5. Nominations for Executive Board

1. Nominations for members on the Executive Board shall come from members of KATE, who shall have been notified well in advance of the deadline for making nominations.

2. Individual nominations shall be sent during the months of December and January to any member of the nominating committee of KATE. The committee chair in turn shall combine the list of candidates to be included on the mail ballot.

3. Prior to the spring meeting, the President shall notify those individuals who have been elected to serve on the Executive Board. Their election shall also be announced at the spring meeting. Newly elected members of the Executive Board will be invited to attend the spring meeting of the Executive Board and will officially begin their three-year term of service at the fall Executive Board meeting.

ARTICLE V - MEETINGS

Section 1. General Meetings

1. General Meetings of the Association shall be held at the call of the President or of two thirds of the Executive Board.

Section 2. Executive Board Meetings

1. Meetings of the Executive Board shall be held at the call of the President or on the written request of two thirds of the Executive Board. A simple majority of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE VI - AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended or temporarily suspended by a two-thirds vote of those present at any regularly called meeting of the Executive Board where a quorum is present. In the event the Executive Board has received advance written notice of suggested changes, a quorum need not be present.

ARTICLE VII - DISSOLUTION

Section 1. Should KATE dissolve, all just debts shall be paid as funds provide, and remaining funds shall be given to NCTE to be held by that Council until a new organization shall be formed by the English teachers of Kansas.

Section 2. However, if the named recipient is not then in existence or no longer a qualified distributee, or unable to accept the distribution, then the assets of this Association shall be distributed to a fund, foundation or organization operated exclusively for the purposes specified in section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

KATE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

1. Executive Board Member Responsibilities

Members of the Executive Board agree to

- a. be willing to serve a three year term
- b. maintain KATE and NCTE memberships
- c. attend three board meetings annually
- d. serve on at least one committee
- e. network with English teachers in Kansas
- f. assist with conference planning
- g. study issues related to teaching English in Kansas
- h. maintain current professional and personal contact information to assure communication among board members.

Failure to attend two consecutive board meetings without notifying the president would be grounds for replacement on the board.

2. Minority Involvement

It is the policy of the Kansas Association of Teachers of English (KATE) that it demonstrate sensitivity to the concerns of people of color, that KATE members be encouraged to actively recruit people of color to KATE and the KATE Executive Board, that if at all possible people of color be represented on all KATE-sponsored programs. To this end, KATE is working towards the following goals:

- a. to include people of color on all appointed boards, committees, and other official groups;
- b. to include people of color among the nominees presented by each nominating committee;
- c. to include in KATE conventions and workshops sessions dealing with minority interests and using as leaders or consultants practicing minority teachers from the levels of instruction concerned;
- d. to include people of color in verbal and visual materials intended to represent or describe KATE.

In order to monitor the effecting of this policy, the Minority Affairs Committee will be maintained until such time as deemed unnecessary by the KATE Executive Board.

3. Travel

The following policies govern reimbursement for KATE travel expenses.

- a. Travel expenses for the KATE President must be approved before incurred by a simple majority of the executive board.
- b. The KATE President has the authority to authorize funds after consultation with the KATE Treasurer to support travel expenses for other KATE executive board members to attend NCTE events or activities directly related to the business of the state organization.
- c. Travel expenses may include only necessary registration fees, round-trip gas mileage and/or ticket fare to the event, lodging, and a per diem of \$30.
- d. Special activities which the executive board member would be expected to attend as a representative of KATE may also be paid if approved according to statement #2.

e. Board members are expected to report to the executive board after any official travel.

4. Compensation

The executive board cannot pay the membership dues to KATE or NCTE for any member.

5. Gift to Outgoing President

It is the responsibility of the second vice-president to be in charge of finding an appropriate gift for the president and presenting it to him/her at the October meeting at which the President retires. This gift is to be paid for out of the general budget and should be a gift the president would appreciate and should cost approximately \$100.