

# WyoPoets Constitution

## Article I. Name

This non-profit organization will hereafter be known as WyoPoets. It is the Wyoming Branch of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS).

## Article II. Purpose

WyoPoets is an organization of persons who write poetry for publication or as a hobby, and it provides a base for mutual help and inspiration by encouraging interest in this literary form throughout the State and by sponsoring workshops, poetry contests, and chapbooks.

## Article III. Membership

WyoPoets has an open membership policy, and anyone may join by paying the annual dues assessment to the organization treasurer.

## Article IV. Officers and Duties

- A. The officers of WyoPoets shall be current members of the organization. The offices are President, Vice President (President-Elect), Secretary, and Treasurer.
- B. The responsibilities of the President are
1. To preside over meetings of the membership and of the Executive Board
  2. To appoint and dissolve committees and chairpersons as the need arises
  3. To serve as ex-officio member of all committees
  4. To communicate on a regular basis with the membership through the WyoPoets' Newsletter
  5. To send a letter listing the WyoPoets voting delegates to the national convention of NFSPS and to appoint a chief delegate or to send a proxy to that meeting
  6. To insure that each new Board member receives a copy of the Constitution, By-laws, and Standing Rules
  7. To forward any changes in the Governing Documents to the NFSPS
  8. To serve as the official contact person for WyoPoets and to represent its interests in the best possible way at all times
- C. The responsibilities of the Vice-President are
1. To promote membership
  2. To serve as acting President when required
  3. To become familiar with all duties of the President
  4. To prepare for and conduct elections at annual meetings
  5. To coordinate all mail ballots
- D. The responsibilities of the Secretary are
1. To keep accurate minutes of all meetings
  2. To correspond with members and other organizations as needed

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(Article IV continued)

E. The responsibilities of the Treasurer are

1. To collect all dues and special assessments
2. To pay bills as authorized by the Executive Board
3. To maintain a record of all financial transactions
4. To provide current membership lists to the NFSPS and to the Executive Board
5. To submit an itemized financial summary at the annual WyoPoets business meeting
6. To provide interim financial reports to the Executive Board when requested
7. To issue membership cards to members in good standing

F. The responsibilities of the Historian are

1. To collect and preserve organizational documents
2. To keep a scrapbook on items associated with members' activities

### **Article V. Elections and Terms of Office**

- A. Officers shall be elected by a simple majority of those voting at the annual business meeting.
- B. Officers shall serve terms of two years.
- C. The Vice-President serves as the President-Elect.
- D. The Executive Board shall appoint offers to fill vacancies in unexpired terms.
- E. In an election year, the Vice-President shall be responsible for publishing vacancies, securing nominations, and conducting elections at the annual meeting.

### **Article VI. Executive Board**

- A. The Executive Board shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and the immediate past President.
- B. The Executive Board shall serve as the Governing Body of WyoPoets and shall have control of organization property, funds, records, and functions. It shall perform all duties necessary for the good of the organization and shall maintain compliance with the Constitution and By-Laws of the NFSPS.
- C. The Executive Board members shall be reimbursed for the normal expenses incurred in the performance of their duties on behalf of WyoPoets.

### **Article VII. Meetings**

WyoPoets will hold one general meeting each year. Special meetings may be called by the Executive Board as needed.

### **Article VIII. National Poetry Day**

WyoPoets will encourage members to observe National Poetry Day on October 15<sup>th</sup> of each year in joint or individual activities that promote appreciation of this literary art form in the state of Wyoming. The same encouragement will be given to observe April as National Poetry Month each year in joint or individual activities.

## **Article IX. Dissolution**

If WyoPoets should be dissolved, after paying or adequately providing for the debts and obligations of the organization, the remaining assets shall be given to the Emmie Mygatt Memorial Scholarship Fund of Wyoming Writers Inc. provided that the Wyoming Writers Inc. (1) is operating and (2) is in good standing as a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization recognized by the Internal Revenue Service.

Should Wyoming Writers Inc. not meet the two above qualifications, the remaining assets shall be given to another appropriate writing scholarship within the State of Wyoming which meets the above qualifications. Should no appropriate writing scholarship qualify, the assets will be given to one or more not-for-profit funds, foundations, or organizations which meet the two qualifications.

## **Article X. Amendments**

The WyoPoets Constitution and By-Laws may be amended by resolution of the Executive Board and ratification by a two-thirds majority of the general membership voting. Balloting may be at the annual meeting or by the mail. The Secretary will provide amended documents to all Executive Board Members and to the NFSPS.

## **WyoPoets By-Laws**

### **Article I. Fiscal Year**

The fiscal year of WyoPoets shall be from January 1 to December 31, and shall become effective as of July 1, 2008. The membership year shall be July 1 through June 30 to coincide with the fiscal year of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS). The membership year shall change as necessary to continue to coincide with the NFSPS membership year without vote of the membership.

### **Article II. Dues**

- A. Yearly dues shall be determined by a majority of the members voting at their annual meeting.
- B. Dues are payable to the Treasurer at the beginning of the membership year.
- C. A portion of the dues paid to WyoPoets is forwarded to the NFSPS for each poet's membership in that organization and for four issues of *Strophes*, the NFSPS newsletter.

### **Article III. Voting**

- A. Only members in good standing may vote.
- B. Officers shall be elected by a majority of those voting.
- C. A quorum shall consist of the members in attendance at the annual general meeting.

### **Article IV. Amendments**

These By-Laws may be amended as provided for by Article X. of the Constitution.