

ARTICLE I NAME

The name of the organization shall be The Maryland/DC (MD/DC) Chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS).

ARTICLE II MISSION STATEMENT AND CODE OF ETHICS

The primary purpose of the MD/DC Chapter of NATS is to promote vocal education and vocal performance at all levels – chapter outcomes may include:

1. To encourage and maintain the highest possible standards of ethical principles regarding pedagogy and practices in the profession of teaching singing.
2. To foster a culture of cooperation and a community of collaboration among its members.
3. To provide professional development and collegial support for its teachers and educational opportunities for their students.
4. To not only instruct the next generation of influential artists, but also to celebrate the history of vocal performance in our community. As our chapter is based in the nation's capital, we recognize the influence of MD/DC artists on Music History and American culture in general. From the spread of Jazz to the creation of Go-Go to the prominence of our Nation's Military Bands, musicians from our area have been and will continue to be important exponents of beauty, history, and community.

The Maryland/DC Chapter serves as the local representative of the national organization and subscribes to all items in the Mission Statement and Purposes as found on the national website (www.nats.org). The Chapter shall be subject to the [bylaws](#) of the National Association, dated September 2024.

The Maryland/DC Chapter subscribes without reservation to the "[Code of Ethics](#)." Adherence to the code of ethics is one of the conditions of individual membership in the National Association.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

National Membership and payment of Maryland/DC Chapter dues are conditions for membership in the Maryland/DC Chapter of NATS.

ALL National NATS members in good standing and residing in, or outside, Maryland and the District of Columbia may join the Maryland/DC Chapter and participate in all of

the chapter's activities including workshops and Student Auditions, upon payment of Maryland/DC Chapter dues.

ARTICLE IV OFFICERS/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chapter officers (i.e., the Executive Committee) shall consist of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Past President, District Membership Director (formerly District Governor), and Technology Manager. The term of office shall be two years, beginning on July 1st of the officer's election or appointment year and ending on June 30th two years later. The duties of the officers shall be those commonly associated with the offices named ([MD/DC Officer Descriptions 2024](#)).

Special officers, committees, or chairs may be appointed by the President to serve in such temporary capacities as occasion may demand. In the event an officer is appointed as interim, their official term begins upon election. Any administrative officer, whether elected or appointed, shall cease to hold office upon termination of his membership in the National Association. Any elected officer may be removed from office, upon due cause, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the chapter membership.

ARTICLE V BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors shall consist of the officers/Executive Committee, the District Membership Director, and up to nine (9) additional members (designated as Members-At-Large). The officers and the District Membership Director shall constitute the Executive Committee. The additional members of the Board shall be nominated and appointed by the Executive Committee as Members-At-Large. The duties of the Board members shall be to assist the officers in conducting the business of the chapter and to chair committees as needed.

The Board of Directors will meet a minimum of two (2) times per year, either in-person or virtually. Board members are expected to attend at least three (3) of the four (4) meetings over their two year term. This meeting may be included in a chapter meeting as determined by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VI MEETINGS

There shall be at least two (2) chapter meetings and at least two (2) chapter events per year. The meetings and events may be held separately or combined.

Chapter meetings will be announced to chapter members at least fourteen (14) days prior to the date of each meeting. Items for agenda consideration must be submitted to the President and/or Secretary no fewer than 5 days before the scheduled meeting. Proposed agenda, date and time, format and location of Chapter and Board meetings will be finalized and distributed at the discretion of the officers.

Chapter and/or Board meetings may be called by the President or by any petitioned officer of the membership, provided in the latter instance that chapter officers and the remainder of the chapter membership are notified at least fourteen (14) days in advance of such a meeting.

Executive committee meetings may be called at the discretion of the President and/or District Membership Director provided officers are notified at least seven (7) days in advance of such a meeting.

Business meetings *may* be modeled after Robert's *Rules of Order*.

All meetings may be conducted in-person or virtually or both. Meetings may be recorded with explicit permission from all attendees.

ARTICLE VII ELECTIONS

The full board and membership will be given at least twenty-one (21) days electronic notice of upcoming officer elections and the board will accept nominations at that time. Elections may be held either electronically or in-person at any chapter meeting.

Any current chapter member in good standing may be nominated at any time to be elected as an officer. Chapter members may also nominate themselves for an officer role. Nominations may be made either in-person during a board or chapter meeting, or by email to the chapter president (at least one week before the planned election). The list of nominees will be sent to the chapter membership electronically at least one week before planned elections.

The Chapter membership will vote electronically or in-person at the agreed upon election chapter meeting. Nominees will be confirmed by a simple majority vote.

ARTICLE VIII – DUES AND ASSESSMENTS

Annual Chapter dues will be set by the MD/DC NATS Board of Directors each year. Chapter dues are paid through the national NATS website, nats.org, along with national dues. Dues may be paid after October 1 for the upcoming year and must be paid by January 1 of the next calendar year. A one-month grace period for late dues from January 1 through February 1 applies, after which lapsed members will be dropped from membership. A late fee will apply after February 1 to reinstate national membership, see nats.org. Chapter dues may be paid any time after national dues are paid.

ARTICLE IX – PROGRAM

The program of this chapter properly may include social, promotional, professional, and educational activities at the discretion of its officers and members, so long as such activities are consistent with the purposes and *Code of Ethics* stated in Article II above. The annual Student Auditions, held in the fall, are a principal event of the Chapter and are outlined further in the MD/DC Student Audition Handbook. Auditions may be held in-person and/or virtually based on the category and determined by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE X AMENDMENTS

The Bylaws of this chapter may be amended or revised, or new Bylaws may be adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) approving vote of the membership, if there is a quorum voting. The Chapter membership may vote electronically or in-person at a general chapter meeting.

Amendments and new Bylaws must be proposed to the membership at least twenty-one (21) days in advance of the deadline for voting.