

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF SINGING
MARYLAND/DC CHAPTER
BYLAWS**

ARTICLE I NAME

The name of the organization shall be The Maryland DC (MD/DC) Chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing. The Chapter shall be subject to the Bylaws of the National Association, dated January 2008.

ARTICLE II MISSION STATEMENT AND CODE OF ETHICS

The Association is organized to benefit the public good and generally enrich the public through:

- (i) The encouragement of Members to achieve the highest standards in their teaching of singing;
- (ii) Promotion of vocal education and research at all levels, both for the enrichment of the general public and for the professional advancement of the talented;
- (iii) Requiring Members' adherence to stated ethical principles in the teaching of the vocal arts.

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). Chapter activities provide professional development and collegial support for teachers and educational opportunities for students. The annual Student Auditions, held in the spring, are a principal event of the Chapter.

The Maryland/DC Chapter, as an organization, subscribes without reservation to the Code of Ethics of the National Association, and that standard is required of the chapter's individual members.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

National Membership and payment of Maryland/DC Chapter dues are conditions for membership in the Maryland/DC Chapter of NATS. All NATS members residing in Maryland and D.C. area are eligible for Chapter membership.

National members in good standing residing outside Maryland and the District of Columbia may also 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

Chapter officers shall consist of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Past President. The term of office shall be two years, beginning on July 1st of election year and ending on June 30th two years later. The duties of the officers shall be those commonly associated with the offices named, with the special responsibility of Student Auditions Chair assigned to the Vice President and Program Chair to the President. The Secretary will submit, in written form, a report of the chapter's activities and the Treasurer will present a report on finances at the end of each year at the June meeting.

Special officers, committees, or chairs may be appointed by the President to serve in such temporary capacities as occasion may demand. 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, the District Governor, and up to five (5) additional members. The officers and the District Governor shall constitute the Executive Committee. The additional members of the Board shall be nominated by the Executive Committee and elected at large. The duties of the Board members shall be to assist the officers in conducting the business of the chapter.

The Board will meet two (2) times per year, in September/October, and again in June.

ARTICLE VI MEETINGS

There shall be at least two (2) chapter meetings and/or workshops per year. Announcements of meetings with proposed agenda and program will be sent to chapter members at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the date of each meeting. Chapter and/or Board meetings will be held at the place determined 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 twenty-one (21) days in advance of such a meeting.

A quorum shall consist of ten percent (10%) of the current Chapter membership plus two (2) of the Chapter officers. At any regular meeting, each member in good standing shall be entitled to vote upon any motion or question properly brought before the Chapter. A simple majority rules, except in the case of amending the Bylaws for which a two-thirds (2/3) majority of those attending and voting is required.

Business meetings shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's *Rules of Order*.

ARTICLE VII ELECTIONS

The membership will be given at least twenty-one (21) days notice of upcoming elections. Elections will be held at the spring meeting in odd numbered years. This meeting will generally be held in conjunction with the Chapter's Student Auditions.

A Nominating Committee convened by the Past-President and drawn from the current Board will provide a slate of nominees for the five officers and the Board of Directors. Additional nominations may be made by e-mail to the president.

Nominees shall be confirmed by a majority of the members in good standing in attendance at the Business Meeting where the slate is proposed.

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.

ARTICLE X AMENDMENTS

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

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

Revised: February 4, 2009