

CONSTITUTION OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TEACHERS OF ENGLISH

I. NAME

The name of this association shall be the National Council of Teachers of English, hereinafter referred to as "NCTE."

II. LOCATION

Its location shall be in Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri, but it may locate its office or offices as the Board of Directors or the Executive Committee may from time to time establish.

III. OBJECT

The purpose of NCTE is to improve the quality of instruction in English at all educational levels; to encourage research, experimentation, and investigation in the teaching of English and literacy; to facilitate professional cooperation of the members; to hold public discussions and programs; to sponsor the publication of desirable articles and reports; and to integrate the efforts of all those who are concerned with the improvement of instruction in English and literacy.

IV. MEMBERSHIP

NCTE offers multiple types of membership, including individual voting membership, emeritus voting membership, student nonvoting membership, and other memberships as designated by the Executive Committee. Individual voting membership in one Section of NCTE shall be available to all persons engaged in the teaching or supervision of English at any school level and to all others interested in the improvement of such teaching.

V. AFFILIATES

A. Basic Qualifications

1. Local, state, or regional affiliates of English and literacy educators with twenty-five or more members and student groups with ten or more nonvoting members of NCTE and organized under faculty sponsorship may become affiliates of NCTE. Every affiliate of NCTE shall appoint or elect a liaison officer for the purpose of ensuring communication and collaboration between the affiliate and NCTE.
2. NCTE recognizes the desirability of organizing affiliates at local, regional, state, or interstate levels, but normally not more than one affiliate shall be accepted into NCTE from any one of these levels in any single geographic area except for justifiable reasons. Whenever applications for affiliation are received from a new association in a locality, a region, or a state in which another affiliate at the same level is already

operating, the Executive Committee shall not take action on the application until at least thirty days after the application is announced in a regular communication sent by NCTE to affiliates. NCTE shall encourage local, regional, and state groups to affiliate with the next higher unit as well as with NCTE.

B. Affiliation Fees

Affiliates shall pay annual affiliation fees to NCTE as set by the Executive Committee.

C. Criteria and Responsibilities for Affiliates

Affiliates of NCTE or groups of English and literacy teachers applying for affiliation with NCTE shall meet the following standards:

1. All members of the governing board either of the affiliate or the group applying for affiliation shall be members of NCTE.
2. The affiliate or the group applying for affiliation shall have a functionally written governing document that shall provide for continuity of personnel within the administration of the affiliate (e.g., by providing either for overlapping terms for members, for rotation of officers, or for an executive officer, etc.). A copy of this governing document shall be provided to NCTE.
3. An affiliate or a group applying for affiliation with NCTE shall hold at least one general meeting a year for its total membership, of which a part shall be devoted to the business of the affiliate, and at least one other additional meeting a year of its governing body.
4. Each affiliate or group applying for affiliation with NCTE shall submit an annual report to NCTE, which shall include:
 - a. a statement of the membership of the affiliate;
 - b. a generalized report of an annual meeting;
 - c. the results of the election of officers;
 - d. a summary of projects undertaken or contemplated;
 - e. notice of special situations and problems as they arise in the area served by the affiliate; and
 - f. notice of special needs of the affiliate or its committees.
5. Each affiliate or group applying for affiliation with NCTE shall maintain some effective means of disseminating information among its members.

D. Representation at NCTE Meetings

1. With the exception of directors representing student affiliates, the certified member of the NCTE Board of Directors from an affiliate or an alternate shall attend the meeting of the NCTE Board of Directors at least once in every three years or the affiliate shall be suspended.

2. The Executive Director of NCTE shall send the certified Director representing an affiliate a formal acknowledgment of certification, including an appropriate certificate; material concerning the functions, organization, and purposes of NCTE; material concerning current issues and problems to be brought to the attention of the NCTE Board of Directors sufficiently in advance of the annual meeting that the Director may confer with the affiliate or its officers and directors so as to receive instructions regarding the attitudes of the affiliate relative to current issues and problems.
3. Certified members of the Board of Directors shall report to the members of their affiliates the actions of the NCTE Board of Directors.

E. Responsibilities of NCTE

1. The Executive Director of NCTE, assisted by other staff members, shall work to increase the services to affiliates performed by NCTE and especially shall assume responsibility for the following functions:
 - a. screening the applications of new affiliates;
 - b. keeping records of the activities of the affiliates;
 - c. preparing to visit affiliates for the purpose of appraisal and counsel to the greatest extent possible;
 - d. working over a period of years toward establishing a vertical and coordinated sequence of responsibility and action between the affiliates and NCTE;
 - e. helping to create a desirable uniformity in the functions and purposes of affiliates;
 - f. planning and initiating an organization of regional areas of NCTE; and
 - g. promoting positive and continuing programs of action among affiliates based upon the recommendations and policies of NCTE.
2. A publication of NCTE shall be issued regularly and frequently to all officers and directors of NCTE and to all officers and directors of affiliates.

VI. OFFICERS AND MANAGEMENT

A. Board of Directors

1. *Authority.* The Board of Directors and NCTE members present at the Annual Business Meeting shall approve or disapprove official position statements on educational issues, such position statements being subject to ratification by the membership (see Article XII.C., Annual Business Meeting). A second, separate procedure for adopting position statements may originate with the Executive Committee. An official position statement may also be adopted (1) when the Executive Committee submits it on a ballot to the entire membership and it is approved by a majority of those responding within 30 days, or (2) when two-thirds of the members of the Executive Committee have voted to approve it. The Board of Directors and NCTE members present at the Annual Business Meeting shall have the further responsibility to recommend new NCTE programs and to advise the Executive Committee on its direction of NCTE operations. The Board shall

receive annually reports on NCTE staff operations and on the activities of the Executive Committee and of all other duly constituted NCTE bodies.

2. *Election.* The Directors shall be chosen in the following manner:
 - a. Each local, state, or regional association affiliated with NCTE and with dues fully paid shall be entitled to select one or more of its members who are also members of NCTE to serve as Directors of NCTE. Any Director chosen to represent an affiliate shall be familiar with the affairs of the affiliate. All affiliates shall be entitled to name one member of the Board of Directors. Affiliates that have between 150 and 349 members who are also members of NCTE shall be entitled to name two members of the Board of Directors; affiliates with 350–549 such members, three Directors; with 550–749, four Directors; and so on, up to a maximum of six Directors. Affiliates that name more than one member to the Board of Directors shall name their liaison officer as one member of the Board of Directors. Each student affiliate shall be entitled to designate one faculty sponsor as a member of the Board of Directors. Such Directors shall serve from the opening of one annual meeting to the opening of the next annual meeting, unless in the meantime the affiliation of their association with NCTE has lapsed.
 - b. Members of the Section Committees (see Article VII.B) shall serve as members of the Board of Directors, representing their respective Sections.
 - c. NCTE officers, representatives-at-large, officers of conferences, representatives of collaboratives, chairs of NCTE committees, and editors of NCTE periodicals shall be ex officio voting members of the Board of Directors.
 - d. Former past presidents of NCTE shall be ex officio voting members of the Board of Directors.
 - e. Assemblies of NCTE whose dues are fully paid shall be entitled to select one or more of their members who are also members of NCTE to serve as Directors of NCTE. All assemblies shall be entitled to name one member to the Board of Directors. Assemblies that have between 150 and 349 members who are also members of NCTE shall be entitled to name two members to the Board of Directors; assemblies with 350–549 such members, three Directors; with 550–749, four Directors; and so on, up to a maximum of six Directors.
3. *Alternates.* In case a Director appointed regularly by an affiliate is unable to attend an annual meeting, an alternate may be sent, provided that the alternate presents the proper credentials and fulfills all other requirements for a fully accredited Director from the affiliate group. The alternate does not, however, take over the unexpired term of office of the regularly constituted Director unless specifically selected to do so by regular constitutional process.

B. Election of Officers, Representatives-at-Large, and Other Officials

1. *Officers.* NCTE members shall elect annually from the membership of NCTE a vice president, who shall serve in the following year as president-elect, in the next year as president, and during the fourth year as past president. The past president, president,

president-elect, and vice president shall constitute the Presidential Team, which shall have such duties as the Executive Committee may designate.

2. *Representatives-at-Large.* NCTE members shall elect from the membership of NCTE three representatives-at-large to the Executive Committee, one each from the elementary, middle, and secondary instructional levels. All shall be school-based instructional leaders at their respective levels at the time of nomination. All shall serve two-year terms.
3. *Nominating Committee.* A Nominating Committee of seven members, five elected by ballot and two appointed by the Officers, shall propose candidates for an election conducted during April and May. The appointees will be the immediate past president (or other past president if the immediate past president is not available), and someone who has been a member of the NCTE Executive Committee. Candidates for election to the Nominating Committee shall represent geographic diversity and be grouped by voting Section (elementary, middle, secondary, college), with the voting Sections rotating annually. The elected candidate receiving the greatest number of votes shall chair the Nominating Committee. No member elected to the Nominating Committee for two consecutive years shall be eligible for reelection until two years have passed. The chair of the Nominating Committee in any one year will serve as consultant to the Nominating Committee elected the following year. Members of the Nominating Committee are ineligible to be placed on a ballot formed in the year(s) they are involved on the committee.
4. *Election Procedures and Calendar.* The procedures and calendar for nomination and election shall be as follows:
 - a. *Nominations.* The Nominating Committee shall send to the Executive Director on or about December 15 the following slate of candidates: two candidates for vice president, two candidates for each representative-at-large position, two candidates for each vacancy on the Board of Trustees of the Research Foundation, and fifteen candidates for the five places on the Nominating Committee during the following year. Should an unexpected vacancy call for a special election (see Article VI.B.5), the Nominating Committee shall prepare slates as requested by the Executive Committee. The Nominating Committee shall serve from September 1 following its formation through August 31 of the next year.
 - b. *Publication of the Slate.* The Executive Director shall send an announcement of the slate of candidates to the membership during the February preceding the next election.
 - c. *Petitions.* Additional names for trustees of the Research Foundation, representatives-at-large, and members of the next Nominating Committee may be added to the ballot by a petition signed by fifty members of NCTE provided that the petition reaches the Executive Director of NCTE not later than January 10, that it is accompanied by the written consent of the person nominated, that the person nominated be a member of NCTE, that in the case of the representative-at-large the person nominated be a school-based instructional leader from the appropriate level, and that in the case of the Nominating Committee the person is from the appropriate level (elementary, middle, secondary, or college) during the year in question. A separate petition shall be required for each nomination by petition.

- d. *Balloting*. Ballots shall be sent to members of NCTE on or about April 15. The deadline for returning ballots shall be June 1. In each case, the candidate receiving the greatest number of votes shall be elected.
 - e. *Announcement of Results*. Immediately after the balloting has closed and the results are known, the Executive Director shall notify all candidates and members of NCTE of the results.
5. *Continuity of Officers*. If the office of the president is vacated for whatever reason, the president-elect shall also serve as president for the president's unexpired term, and at the end of the term as president-elect shall succeed to the office of president. If the office of the president-elect is vacated for whatever reason, the vice president shall also serve as president-elect for the president-elect's unexpired term, and at the end of the term as vice president shall succeed to the office of president-elect. If the office of the past president is vacated, no replacement shall be appointed or elected, and the quorum specified in Article VI.C.1 shall be reduced by one.

If the office of the vice president is vacated for whatever reason prior to June 1, the Nominating Committee shall submit within one month of the vacancy a slate of two candidates for a special election by the membership. The individual so elected shall immediately assume office as vice president and shall succeed to the office of president-elect at the end of the term as vice president. Should the successful candidate for vice president withdraw after the election but before assuming the duties of that office, the second candidate on the same slate shall become the vice president for the unexpired term and shall succeed to the office of president-elect at the end of the term as vice president. Should that candidate decline to serve or be unable to serve, the Executive Committee shall appoint a vice president for the unexpired term, who shall succeed to the office of president-elect at the end of the term as vice president.

If the vacancy in the office of vice president occurs on or after June 1 and prior to the next annual meeting, the vacancy shall be filled by the incoming vice president for the unexpired term, who shall continue in the office of vice president for the term in which the individual was elected as vice president.

6. *Executive Director*. The Executive Committee shall employ an Executive Director who shall perform the functions of secretary and treasurer, and such duties as the Executive Committee may designate.

C. Executive Committee

1. *Membership and Quorum*. The officers of NCTE (the president, the president-elect, the vice president, and the past president), the chairs and associate chairs of the Sections, the representatives-at-large, the chair of TYCA, and the chairs of NCTE conferences (CCCC, CEL, ELATE, and LLA), shall constitute the Executive Committee, which shall be responsible for approving official NCTE policies, i.e., decisions concerning internal NCTE operations and structure. A simple majority of the total number of voting members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum.
2. *Duties*. The Executive Committee shall take actions on position statements on educational issues approved by the Board of Directors or by the entire membership in ballots, exercising budgetary responsibility in implementing such actions. Subject to the

limitations imposed by Article XII.A, the Executive Committee shall have the authority to approve budgets, to review annual audits, to enter into contracts, to incur debts, to invest funds, and to sell and acquire property in the best interests of NCTE. Such activities shall be reported annually to the Board of Directors.

3. *Eligibility.* Although not barred from candidacy for election to the Executive Committee, editors of NCTE journals, and trustees of the Research Foundation shall resign from those positions if they are elected to the Executive Committee.
4. *Electronic Meetings.* Any meeting of the Executive Committee may be conducted by electronic means such as conference telephone call, webinar, or similar electronic communication, so long as all persons participating are able to remain in communications contact with one another at the same time. Participation by such means shall constitute an individual's presence in person at the meeting. Provided that a quorum exists, decisions taken by vote during electronic meetings shall be deemed binding, in the same manner that decisions taken by vote during live meetings are.

VII. SECTIONS

A. Membership

Individual voting members of NCTE select the Section in which they wish voting membership: Elementary Section, Middle Level Section, Secondary Section, or College Section. All individual voting members receive a subscription to *The Council Chronicle*.

B. Governance of Sections

1. *Section Committees.* Each Section shall have a steering committee known as the Section Committee, with eight elected members and with the officers of NCTE serving as ex officio members of their respective Section Committees. In addition, when the voting membership of a Section exceeds 10,000, the Section Committee shall be increased by one member for each additional 5,000 voting members. Section Committee members shall usually serve for four-year terms and shall take office at the close of the November meeting following their election.

Each Section Committee shall have a chair whom the membership of the Committee shall choose from among those Section Committee members who have one or more years to serve. The term of the chair shall be two years.

In addition, when the voting membership of a Section exceeds 15,000, the Section Committee shall elect from its membership an associate chair. For each further increase of 15,000 voting members in a Section, the Section shall elect an additional associate chair. The term of office for an associate chair shall normally be two years, and the election for this office shall normally be in alternate years from the election of the Section chair. When a Section Committee member who has only one year remaining on the Section Committee is elected as Section chair or associate chair, that member will serve an additional year on the committee in order to complete the two-year term as chair or associate chair. An associate chair with one or more years left to serve on the Section Committee at the time of the election of the next chair shall be eligible to serve as chair. If the Section Committee chooses an associate chair to serve as chair, they shall also

select another member of the Section Committee to fill the unexpired term of the associate chair.

The Section Committee may appoint intra-Sectional committees to carry on Sectional duties. Such committees must be approved by the NCTE Executive Committee.

2. *Section Nominating Committees.* Each Section shall have a nominating committee of three members, elected by ballot of the membership of the Section. The candidate receiving the greatest number of votes shall chair the committee. The Section Nominating Committee shall be chosen from a slate of six candidates prepared by the Section Nominating Committee in the preceding year.

Except under one circumstance, the Section Nominating Committee shall send to the Executive Director on or about December 15 a slate of four candidates, two to be elected to the Section Committee, and six additional candidates, three to be elected to constitute the next Section Nominating Committee. The exception occurs when Sections reach 15,000 voting members and thus have more than eight elected members on the Section Committee. In years when more than two vacancies are to be filled, the Section Nominating Committee shall submit a slate of twice the number of candidates needed to fill all vacancies.

3. *Petitions.* Slates shall be published in the Section journals prior to April 15. Additional nominations either for the Section Committee or for the Section Nominating Committee may be added to the ballot by a petition signed by fifty members of the Section, provided that the petition be accompanied by a statement of written consent from the persons nominated, that the candidates be members of the Section in question, and that the petition reach the Executive Director of NCTE not later than January 10.
4. *Calendar of Events.* Ballots shall be sent to members of the Sections on or about April 15. The deadline for returning ballots shall be June 1. After the balloting has closed and the results are known, the Executive Director shall notify all candidates and NCTE members of the results.

VIII. NCTE COMMITTEES

In addition to the committees authorized in Articles VI.B.3 and VI.C (Nominating Committee and Executive Committee) and Article VII (Section nominating committees and Section steering committees), and to affiliates (Article V), NCTE recognizes the following constituent groups which are subject to the oversight of the Board of Directors and/or Executive Committee and are subject to NCTE's tax-exempt status and legal requirements placed upon NCTE:

A. Associations

Associations are authorized by the NCTE Executive Committee for members who teach English and literacy in a common educational or professional setting. The chair and other officers may be appointed by the NCTE Executive Committee or elected by the membership of the association, as the NCTE Executive Committee authorizes when the association is established. All individual voting members of an association shall also be NCTE members. The membership criteria and governance structure of associations shall be approved by the NCTE Executive Committee. Any association shall issue an annual report to the Board of

Directors, and if the NCTE Executive Committee so requests, an association shall issue progress reports at times designated by the NCTE Executive Committee. Approval of application for the authorization of new associations shall be subject to minimum requirements for membership and for annual income, such requirements to be set by the NCTE Executive Committee.

B. Collaboratives

Collaboratives are authorized by the NCTE Executive Committee to serve the interests and purposes of members who share special interests. Collaboratives are open to all NCTE members. The members of a collaborative shall elect a chair. The chair of a collaborative shall issue an annual report to the Board of Directors.

C. Committees

General committees are appointed by the Executive Committee as standing committees or as short-term committees to carry on activities at one or more levels of instruction. Such committees shall report at designated times to the Executive Committee and Board of Directors of NCTE.

D. Conferences

Conferences are authorized by the NCTE Executive Committee for specific or indefinite terms with the principal responsibility for holding meetings for exchange of views on specific professional topics. The chair and other officers may be appointed by the NCTE Executive Committee or elected by the membership of the conference, as the NCTE Executive Committee authorizes when the conference is established. A conference when authorized shall have the responsibility for planning its meetings and interim activities, subject to the approval of the NCTE Executive Committee. If the NCTE Executive Committee so requests, a conference shall issue progress reports at times designated by the NCTE Executive Committee.

Approval of application for the authorization of new conferences shall be subject to minimum requirements for membership and for annual income, such requirements to be set by the Executive Committee. All individual voting members of a conference shall also be NCTE members.

E. Task Forces

Task forces are authorized by the NCTE Executive Committee to carry out specific, targeted, high-priority projects identified by the Executive Committee. The chair of a task force shall be appointed by the Executive Committee, and its members shall be approved by the Executive Committee. The chair shall issue progress reports as requested by the Executive Committee and annually to the Board of Directors.

IX. OTHER GROUPS

Assemblies

Assemblies are independent organizations with missions that share special interests with NCTE or have similar professional positions or areas of expertise. Their activities are outside of NCTE's governance and tax status, yet assemblies may find alignment with NCTE beneficial. Such authorization can be designated by the Executive Committee, and

assemblies may receive formal benefits as determined by the Executive Committee. To be authorized, an assembly must maintain a minimum membership of twenty-five, and all officers and other members of its governing board must be members of NCTE. An assembly shall pay to NCTE annual dues which shall be set by the Executive Committee. As independent organizations, assemblies may set whatever individual dues their memberships authorize.

X. THE RESEARCH FOUNDATION

A. Purpose

NCTE shall maintain an educational foundation, the purpose of which shall be the financial support of research studies in English teaching, as well as other NCTE activities of the kinds enumerated in Article III of this Constitution.

B. Name

The name of this Foundation shall be the Research Foundation of the National Council of Teachers of English, Established in Honor of J. N. Hook.

C. Trustees

1. Management of the Foundation shall be vested in seven Trustees, none of whom shall be at the same time members of the Executive Committee, and whose policies shall be subject to approval by the Executive Committee.
2. The term of the Trustees shall be three years. One or more Trustees shall be elected each year, as needed to maintain a total of five elected Trustees. The two additional Trustees shall be appointed by the five elected Trustees, for terms varying from one to five years each, at the discretion of the elected Trustees. Any Trustee who has served six consecutive years may not serve again until at least three additional years have passed.
3. Nomination and election of the Trustees shall be conducted in the same way as nomination and election of NCTE officers as described in Article VI.B.4. of this Constitution.
4. The duties and responsibilities of the Trustees shall be (a) to encourage gifts and special grants to the Foundation; (b) to manage the investment of funds not currently needed to carry on the work of the Foundation; and (c) to grant funds to qualified individuals, committees, and other groups, within or outside NCTE, for specified projects of the sort for which the Foundation is established.
5. Except for the payment of reasonable compensation for services actually rendered to or for the Foundation, none of the funds or earnings of the Foundation shall inure to the financial benefit of any Trustee or of any other private person or party, but shall be used solely and exclusively for the objects and purposes of the Foundation and NCTE.
6. The Trustees shall not grant or make commitments to grant funds in excess of those currently in the treasury of the Foundation.

D. Contributions to the Foundation

1. After the election of the first Trustees, NCTE shall transfer to the Foundation from its accumulated earnings a sum of money to be determined by the Executive Committee. Thereafter, additional transfers of NCTE funds may be made as directed by the Executive Committee.
2. NCTE members and other individuals, groups, or corporations shall be encouraged to make donations and bequests to the Foundation, such gifts to be used at the direction of the Trustees in accordance with the purpose of the Foundation. Donors or grantors may specify the uses of their gifts if those uses fall within the purpose of the Foundation. The Trustees shall be empowered to accept or decline any proffered gifts.

XI. OTHER GROUPS WITHIN NCTE

The NCTE Executive Committee may establish other kinds of groups within NCTE (e.g., consortia) to meet the emerging needs of its members, provided the provisions exist within applicable laws and regulations tied to charitable, 501(c)(3) organizations. The Executive Committee will review such groups every three years to determine whether they are continuing to meet the needs earlier identified and if they are fulfilling their membership projections and fiscal goals.

XII. MEETINGS

A. NCTE Meetings

The annual meeting of NCTE shall be held at such place and time as the Executive Committee shall designate, and shall provide in its schedule time for an Annual Business Meeting for the Board of Directors and other members of NCTE. (Special meetings may be called at any time by the Executive Committee or by petition, filed with the Executive Director, of ten percent of the membership of NCTE.)

B. Meetings of the Board of Directors

1. *Time and Quorum.* The Board of Directors shall meet in connection with the Annual Business Meeting at the time and place of the annual meeting of NCTE. Special meetings of the Board shall be called by the Executive Director at the direction of the Executive Committee, or upon written request made three months in advance of the date for the meeting by twenty percent of the members of the Board. Twenty percent of the Board shall constitute a quorum.
2. *Exceptions.* In the event that there is no annual meeting of NCTE, there shall be a meeting of the Board of Directors. In the event that a meeting of the Board of Directors shall prove impractical, the Executive Committee shall submit all required reports by mail to the Directors and shall seek by ballot votes on proposed policy statements.

C. Annual Business Meeting

The Directors present and other NCTE members present shall adopt any special rules governing the conduct of the meeting, including the specification of a quorum. Directors in

attendance and other NCTE members present may participate in debate and vote on resolutions and other matters at the meeting. Resolutions offer a collective, collaborative, and creative opportunity for members to bring current matters in literacy education stimulating concern, emergent opportunities, and areas of import to the formal attention of NCTE's elected leaders. A majority of those present and voting at the Annual Business Meeting shall be required for approval of a resolution. Each resolution so approved will be presented to the entire membership for vote and comment. The results will be considered and discussed by the NCTE Executive Committee.

XIII. BUDGETS

A. Limitation

Neither NCTE nor any officer or committee shall contract indebtedness exceeding the net balance then remaining in the treasury plus fifty percent of the other assets of NCTE.

B. Budgets

The Executive Committee shall approve a budget in advance of the next fiscal year. Proposed budget requests from constituent groups of NCTE shall be submitted to the Executive Director not later than September 15. Expenditures that are provided for within the budget shall be authorized by the chief fiscal administrator of NCTE. Expenditures that exceed budget ceilings or support activities not provided for in the budget shall require authorization by the Executive Committee.

C. Fiscal Year

The Executive Committee shall determine the date of the fiscal year.

XIV. AMENDMENTS

A. Requirements

This Constitution may be amended by two-thirds vote of the members present at any regular meeting of NCTE, provided that at least 30 days' notice be given to each member of the nature of any proposed amendment or addition, such notice to be sent upon the order of the Executive Committee; or by a two-thirds vote of those participating in a ballot submitted to the members of NCTE.

B. Proposal by Petition

If a proposal to amend this Constitution is presented to the Executive Committee with the signatures of one percent of the members of NCTE, the Executive Committee shall within twelve months submit it to a vote, either giving a proper notice and bringing it before a legal meeting of NCTE or sending out a ballot upon the proposal.

XV. IRS REQUIREMENTS FOR SECTION 501(c)(3) ORGANIZATIONS

- A.** NCTE is organized exclusively for educational 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.
- B.** No part of the net earnings of NCTE 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 object set forth in section A hereof and in Article III of this Constitution.
- C.** No substantial part of the activities of NCTE 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.
- D.** Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, NCTE 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.
- E.** Upon the dissolution of NCTE, 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.

BYLAWS

- 1. a. The annual membership fee for individual members of NCTE shall be set by the Executive Committee.
- b. Of the annual dues of each voting member, five percent shall be considered a donation to the Research Foundation of the National Council of Teachers of English.
- c. In lieu of annual fees, an individual member may pay an amount fifteen times the annual membership fee for a life membership, either in a lump sum or in six consecutive annual installments; this will include the cost of one individual voting membership each year.
- 2. The names of the officers, the directors, and the chairs and members of all committees of NCTE shall be published annually to the membership.
- 3. The minutes of the Board of Directors meeting for the preceding year shall be presented to the Board of Directors at each annual meeting.

4. Any time this Constitution authorizes a vote of the entire membership of NCTE, that vote may be conducted by electronic means. NCTE staff shall establish and oversee a secure process that validates the electronic ballots while protecting the identity of the voter.
5. These bylaws may be amended by majority vote of the members attending any Annual Business Meeting, provided notice of the proposed change has been given to all members at least thirty days before the meeting, or by a three-quarters vote of members attending the Annual Business Meeting.

November 2023