

# **BY-LAWS OF THE STORYTELLERS OF CENTRAL OHIO**

## **ARTICLE 1: NAME**

The name of this organization shall be, "Storytellers Of Central Ohio", a.k.a., "SOCO".

## **ARTICLE 2: PURPOSES**

The purposes of this organization shall be to:

- A. Promote an interest in the oral tradition and storytelling of various kinds,
- B. Encourage and support people who are or want to become storytellers, and
- C. Serve as a network for Central Ohio storytellers.

## **ARTICLE 3: MEMBERSHIP**

A. Individuals shall become voting members upon payment of the organization's annual dues, the amount and payment date of which shall be set, from time to time, by the Executive Board.

B. No person shall be denied membership' on the basis of race, age, religion, national origin, political persuasion, gender, sexual orientation, or any other discriminatory criteria.

C. Group, one vote membership, shall be conferred upon payment of annual dues, by or on behalf of groups, as set by the Executive Board, from time to time, providing the applicant group's own membership qualifications, in general, comply with Section B of this article.

## **ARTICLE 4: ELECTED OFFICERS**

A. The elected officers shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

B. The duties of the President shall be to set the agenda for all meetings, run the meetings, and in general provide for the efficient functioning of the organization.

C. The duties of the Vice-President shall be to perform the duties of the President when the President is absent or incapacitated and to perform such other duties as the President may direct.

D. The duties of the Secretary shall be to take minutes at all official meetings, ensure that a summary or more specific information of said meetings appears in the SOCO newsletter or other means of communication, and maintain all files relating to the minutes.

E. The duties of the Treasurer shall be to supervise the safe-keeping of funds raised by the organization, make necessary payments for debts legitimately incurred by the organization, and to present timely and accurate reports concerning the finances at all scheduled meetings and special meetings when notified sufficiently in advance.

F. The terms of office for all of the organization's officers shall be one year.

G. It is recommended that no office be held by the same individual for more than four consecutive terms.

H. Vacancies in the elected offices shall be filled by appointment of an individual by the Executive Board to serve the uncompleted term, except for the Presidency, in which case the Vice-President shall automatically become President.

## **ARTICLE 5: EXECUTIVE BOARD**

A. The purpose of the Executive Board shall be to formulate policy and supervise the functioning of the Storytellers Of Central Ohio between membership meetings.

- B. The membership of the Executive Board shall consist of the elected officers and not more than five at-large elected members.
- C. The terms of office for at-large representatives shall be one year. And, no office shall be held by the same individual for more than three consecutive terms.
- D. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment by the Executive Board to serve out the remainder of the term of that position.
- E. No individual may simultaneously serve in more than one elected position.

## **ARTICLE 6: STANDING COMMITTEES**

- A. The standing committees shall be: Membership (chaired by the Treasurer), Communications, and Nominating.
- B. The purpose of the Membership Committee shall be to recruit members, keep a current roster, and certify eligibility of active members to run for office.
- C. The purpose of the Communications Committee shall be to produce organizational materials, including a regularly scheduled newsletter. The Vice-President shall chair this committee. A Publicity Committee shall be a sub-committee of the Communications Committee. The purpose of the Publicity Committee shall be to publicize public activities of the Storytellers Of Central Ohio.
- D. The purpose of the Nominating Committee shall be to recruit candidates for the various elected positions.
- E. The President shall serve as ex-officio member to all standing committees except for the Nominating Committee, from which the President is expressly barred.
- F. The size of the committees shall be established by the committee chair subject to objection of the Executive Board.
- G. It shall be normative for a large percentage of standing committee members to be drawn from the general membership of the organization rather than from the Executive Board .
- H. The Committee Chairs, except for the Membership committee, shall be appointed annually by the President and shall serve at the discretion of the President unless overruled by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Board.
  - I. The Committee Chair shall appoint his/her committee members.
- J. The President may create temporary committees as necessary, e.g., an Audit Committee.

## **ARTICLE 7: MEETINGS**

- A. Executive Board meetings shall be held at least once each quarter year.
- B. These meetings shall be open to all Storytellers Of Central Ohio members and shall be publicized in advance thereof.
- C. Special meetings can be called by the President, or by one-half the votes of the Executive Board.
- D. Membership meetings shall be held on such dates, times and places as determined by the Executive Board.

## **ARTICLE 8: ELECTIONS**

- A. Any individual who is a voting member of the Storytellers Of Central Ohio is eligible to run for an office in the organization.
- B. Elections, which shall be conducted at a membership meeting in May of each year, shall be decided by a secret vote by individual members. Absentee ballots may be

accepted, by mail, if post marked no later than one week before the May membership meeting.

C. Terms of office shall begin on the first day of June of each year.

D. The Nominating Committee shall conduct the elections and arrange for the membership to learn of the candidates' qualifications.

E. The Executive Committee shall decide the procedures and conduct the balloting, in accordance with these by-laws.

F. Nominations shall be made by a member and the nominee's acceptance thereof.

G. Only the names of the election winners will be publicly announced. Voting totals may be requested by application to the Executive Board.

## **ARTICLE 9: REMOVAL OF A BOARD MEMBER**

A. A Board Member shall be subject to removal from office if he or she misses three unexcused consecutive board meetings without a valid excuse to the President or Vice-President, if serving in the place of the elected President.

B. A Board Member may be removed and prohibited from fulfilling a term of office to which elected if convicted of a serious crime.

C. The Executive Board shall determine if a crime is a serious crime.

## **ARTICLE 10: QUORUM**

A. For purposes of conducting business, the Executive Board must have a majority of its members present.

## **ARTICLE 11: DISSOLUTION**

A. Should the Storytellers Of Central Ohio, for any reason dissolve, its assets shall be liquidated and all monies, after debts have been paid, shall be donated to the National Storytelling Network, the current address of which is: P.O. Box 795, Jonesborough, TN 37659

## **ARTICLE 12: AMENDMENTS**

A. These By-Laws may be amended by a simple majority vote cast by the general individual membership.

B. The Executive Board may propose amendment(s) by a majority vote of its members.

C. Proposed amendment(s) from the general membership must have 10 percent of the signatures of the individual voting membership.

D. The procedures for debating and voting on the amendment(s) shall be decided by the Executive Board. The proposed amendment(s) must be disseminated to all members at least four weeks before the vote takes place.

## **ARTICLE 13: MEETING PROCEDURE**

A. In all discussions, all members shall be courteous and considerate of others views and time constraints.

(AS MODIFIED ON JAN. 21, 2017 & APPROVED ON FEB. 11, 2017)