

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE ALABAMA-MISSISSIPPI  
SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Adopted November 7, 1970. Revised November 11, 1972,  
November 10, 1973, February 28, 1981, February 22, 1985,  
February 26, 1999 and February 16, 2001

CONSTITUTION

Article I. Name

Section 1. The organization shall be known as the Alabama-Mississippi Sociological Association.

Article II. Objectives

Section 1. The Association shall facilitate and encourage cooperative relations among persons in Alabama and Mississippi engaged and interested in the scientific study of society. The Association shall endeavor to improve teaching, research, and sociological practice and to assist in the furtherance of sociology in the schools, colleges, and universities of the two-state area.

Article III. Membership

Section 1. Membership in the Association shall be open to any person meeting the conditions prescribed in the By-Laws.

Article IV. Officers

Section 1. The officers of the Association shall be a President, a President-Elect, a Secretary and a Treasurer; the last three shall be elected by the membership.

Section 2. The duties of the President of the Association are as follows: preside at all business meetings of the Association; chair the Executive Committee and preside at its meetings; have direct charge of the general program of the annual meeting; prepare and distribute to the membership two newsletters, one in the fall before the annual meeting and one in the spring after the annual meeting; chair the Committee for Awards for the year after completion of term of office; and perform all duties assigned to the President by the Association and the Executive Committee. The Past President remains on the Executive Committee for one year following the year as President. In the event of the President's death, resignation, or absence, except as otherwise provided in this Constitution, these duties shall devolve in line of succession upon the President-Elect, the Secretary, and then the Treasurer. The term of the President shall be one year, unless he/she succeeds to the office earlier.

Section 3. The President-Elect shall be a member of the Executive Committee, and may succeed to the duties of the President as provided in Section 2. In the year following a term as President-elect, he/she will succeed to the Presidency.

Section 4. The Secretary shall be a member of the Executive Committee, and shall keep all records of the Association, including minutes of the Executive Committee. The term of the Secretary shall be for three years.

#### Article IV. Officers (Continued)

Section 5. The Treasurer shall be a member of the Executive Committee, and shall receive, have custody of, and disburse the funds of the Association in accordance with the wishes of the Association, keeping all necessary records of these transactions. The term of the Treasurer shall be for three years.

Section 6. The officers shall assume their positions at the conclusion of the business session of the annual meeting.

#### Article V. Executive Committee

Section 1. The governing body of the Association, subject only to the membership of the Association, shall be an Executive Committee, composed of the officers, the immediate past president, and six members-at-large, three from each state. They shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the Association.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall have charge of the general interests of the Association, shall call regular and special meetings of the Association, and shall have power to fill all vacancies not otherwise provided for, such appointees to hold office until the next annual meeting.

Section 3. The President of the Association shall be Chair of the Executive Committee, and the Secretary of the Association shall be Secretary of the Executive Committee.

Section 4. The terms of Members-at-Large shall be for three years. The terms shall be staggered so two Members-at-Large, one from each state, are elected each year. Members-at-Large are to attend all meetings of the Executive Committee.

Section 5. With the consent of a majority of the Executive Committee, the President may appoint a replacement for any member of a committee who is inactive. The appointed member shall be from the same state as the inactive member and shall serve for the remainder of that member's term. "Inactive" means that the member, without providing an acceptable explanation, has failed to participate in the work of the Executive Committee.

#### Article VI. Archivist

Section 1. The Archivist is responsible for collecting, organizing, and maintaining the records and documents of the Association. The Archivist shall actively seek materials for archival purposes from the officers and membership of the Association as deemed appropriate. The Archivist shall be elected by the membership for a term of five years, after which his/her term can be renewed for additional years of service. The Archivist shall also serve as a non-voting, ex-officio member of the Executive Committee.

#### Article VII. Communications Director

Section 1. The Communications Director is responsible for maintaining and servicing the A-MSA Website. The Communications Director is also responsible for maintaining a current, accessible, email roster and email based electronic communication system for the A-MSA to facilitate rapid and cost effective communication between the President, the Executive Committee and the A-MSA Membership.

## Article VII. Communications Director (Continued)

If and when feasible, the Communications Director will also be responsible for disseminating the Fall and Spring A-MSA Newsletters Via A-MSA Website and/or email.

The Communications Director shall be appointed by the A-MSA President with the consent of the Executive Committee for a three Year term. The Communications Director shall serve as a voting Member of the A-MSA Executive Committee.

## Article VIII. Meetings

Section 1. The Association shall hold an annual meeting at a time and place determined by the President in consultation with the Executive Committee, for the transaction of business, the presentation of papers, and the general discussion of sociological topics. The President shall send notification of annual meeting dates to all members at least two months before such meetings. At such meetings, the officers shall make their annual reports and the election of officers for the ensuing year shall take place. The programs of all annual meetings shall become part of the Secretary's minutes. Such members as are present at the annual meeting shall constitute a quorum. The meeting place shall alternate annually between the two states.

## Article IX. Special Funds and Endowments

Section 1. With the approval of the Association, the Executive Committee may solicit, receive, invest, and expend funds, and the income therefrom, for special purposes designed to further the interests of the Association.

## Article X. Elections

Section 1. There shall be a Nominating Committee, consisting of six members. The Chair of the Nominating Committee is appointed by the President. The Chair then selects a committee that is representative of each state and the membership. This Committee shall nominate not more than two persons for each office.

Section 2. In choosing nominees, the Nominating Committee shall maintain a balance in representation between members of each state. Nominees for President-Elect shall not be from the same state as the President. Nominees for Secretary and Treasurer shall not be from the same state as each other. Nominees for the two Member-at-Large positions shall be from different states.

Section 3. The Nominating Committee shall present the nominations to the membership at the business session of the annual meeting. Nominations may be made from the floor. Voting shall be by secret ballot only if more than one person is nominated for an office. Election shall be by majority vote of those present and voting.

## Article XI. Amendments

Section 1. Amendments to this constitution may be proposed at any time by the Executive Committee or by any member of the Association. Proposed amendments by members shall be referred to the Executive Committee for study and recommendation to the Association. The Executive Committee may submit by mailed ballot any proposed changes to the Constitution at any time between annual meetings; or if amendments are to be presented by the Executive Committee at the annual meeting, the membership shall be notified of the proposed changes at least four weeks prior to the annual meeting. Approval by two-thirds of the voting members shall be necessary for adoption.

## BY-LAWS

### Article 1. Membership and Dues

- Section 1. The membership of the Association shall consist of two classes: Regular and Student. Dues and registration fees for the various classes of membership shall be established by a majority vote of the Association at its annual meeting, to take effect the following year.
- Section 2. Regular membership shall be open to any person in Alabama and Mississippi who holds a graduate or bachelor degree in sociology, or is engaged in professional practice in sociology; or, upon the approval of the Executive Committee, any person professionally engaged in related interest areas.
- Section 3. Student membership shall be open to any currently enrolled college student in the two states who has completed a minimum of 12 semester hours of sociology.
- Section 4. The membership year shall run from the close of one annual meeting to the close of the next annual meeting.
- Section 5. The membership fee for the new membership year is due at the annual meeting. Dues must be paid to vote on matters before the membership, to hold office, and to participate in all other activities of the Association.
- Section 6. All persons making presentations at the Annual Meeting (e.g., papers, panels, workshops, etc.) must be current members of the Association at the time of their presentation, unless specifically invited by the President to participate in one or more activities as a guest of the Association.

### Article II. Voting

- Section 1. Regular and Student members shall have voting privileges.

### Article III. Committees

- Section 1. Three months prior to the annual meeting, the President shall appoint a Chair of the Nominating Committee, who then selects six persons, three from each state.
- Section 2. The President, with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee, shall appoint committees according to the needs of the Association.

### Article IV. Eligibility for Nomination and Election

- Section 1. To be eligible for nomination and election to any office of the Association, one must have been a Regular member of the Association for at least one year.

## Article V. Meetings

Section 1. It shall be the duty of the President and Executive Committee to select a place for the annual meeting.

Section 2 All persons who attend the Annual Meeting must pay the meeting registration fee, unless specifically invited by the President to participate in one or more activities as a guest of the Association.

## Article VI. Amendments

Section 1. Amendments to these By-Laws may be proposed by the Executive Committee or by any member of the Association. Proposed amendments by members shall be referred to the Executive Committee for study and recommendation to the Association. Final action may be taken at any annual meeting of the Association by a majority vote of the members present and voting.

## Article VII. Other Groups and Committees

Section 1. The Association shall encourage continuing work groups with special interests, such as the teaching of high school sociology, research and consultation on public policy issues, etc. These work groups, if they so request, shall have a designated meeting time at the Association's annual meeting. The chairs of these groups shall serve as ex-officio members of the Program Committee.

## Article VIII. Recognition and Awards

Section 1. The Association may present two awards to members: the Distinguished Service Award and the Outstanding Achievement Award. These awards are not necessarily presented every year, but may be presented when the membership has identified deserving recipients.

A. Distinguished Service Award. This recognition is given to a member of long standing who has promoted and supported the AMSA with his/her time and talents. Eligibility for this award is defined as:

1. Ten years or more of AMSA membership, and
2. A strong record of involvement in Association governance and annual programs.

B. Outstanding Achievement Award. During the course of a member's professional career, there are particularly noteworthy accomplishments which bring special recognition to the sociology profession and to the AMSA. Eligibility for this award requires only that the individual has been a member of the AMSA for a minimum of six years (not continuously).

## Article VII. Recognition and Awards (Continued)

- Section 2. Selection of Award Recipients. The Awards Committee shall consist of the last five past Presidents. The immediate Past President shall serve as Chair. The Chair of the committee shall send out requests for nominations from the membership. Nominations may come from the committee as well. It is the responsibility of the Committee to present any nominations for the awards to the Executive Committee.
- Section 3. Student Paper Awards. The Association may also give awards for outstanding papers presented by graduate and undergraduate students. The organizers of the graduate/undergraduate sessions are responsible for selecting judges for student papers.