

# CONSTITUTION OF THE WESTERN FORENSIC ASSOCIATION

March, 1985

## Article I. Name

The name of this organization shall be Western Forensic Association.

## Article II. Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be the furtherance of forensic activities in every laudable way, and to cooperate in promoting the purposes and activities of the Western Speech Communication Association and the American Forensic Association.

## Article III. Membership

Persons engaged in directing or teaching forensics in educational institutions and those interested in advancing forensics education and scholarship shall be eligible for membership. Forensics shall include debate, discussion, extemporaneous speaking, oratory and other related speech activities. Membership shall be effected upon membership in the American Forensic Association or by individual application to the Western Forensic Association under the auspices of the Western Speech Communication Association.

## Article IV. Officers

Section 1. Officers. The officers of this association shall be: President, Vice-President and Secretary-Treasurer, each of whom will assume office on January 1 following election and shall serve for a period of two years.

Section 2. President. The President shall preside over all business meetings of this organization and shall assume all the duties of the chief executive officer. The President shall be ex-officio member of all standing committees. The President shall serve as representative of this association on the national Council of the American Forensic Association.

Section 3. Vice-President. The Vice-President shall act on behalf of the President in the event of the President's unavailability, illness, or incapacity, and shall assume the office of the President upon the resignation or death of the elected President. The Vice-President's primary responsibility shall be arrangement of programs for the Western Speech Communication Association Convention.

Section 4. Secretary-Treasurer. The Secretary-Treasurer shall record all the minutes of, and the transactions of all business meetings and shall conduct official correspondence. The Secretary-Treasurer shall collect any fees, keep official count of all funds of the association, pay bills and accounts from the existing funds of the association, and make financial reports at annual meetings and when called upon by the President. In addition, the Secretary-Treasurer shall distribute and tabulate election ballots.

## Article V. Executive Council

Section 1. The Executive Council of this association shall be comprised of the President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, and two additional members.

- Section 2. It shall be the duty of the Executive Council to carry out the expressed wishes of the membership, to select the Committees and Standing Committees for the special duties and projects of the association and to act on behalf of the association between annual meetings.
- Section 3. The two members elected to the Executive Council shall assume office on January 1 following election and shall serve for a period of two years.

#### Article VI. Election Procedures

- Section 1. A Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Council and shall consist of three members.
- Section 2. The Nominating Committee shall prepare a slate of candidates to be presented to the annual business meeting at every other annual business meeting beginning with nominations in 1981. These nominees, together with any nominations from the floor, shall constitute the official election ballot. The Secretary-Treasurer will distribute the official ballot to all members no later than March 15 following the annual business meeting. Ballots must be returned to the Secretary-Treasurer by the end of the first week in April at the latest—the Secretary-Treasurer shall establish the exact time that the poll closes and include this information on the ballot. The Secretary-Treasurer shall count the ballots within 24 hours of the time the poll closes and immediately mail the results of the poll to the President who will announce the results to the entire membership no later than May 1.

#### Article VII. Meetings

- Section 1. The regular meeting, which is the annual business meeting, and election of officers, shall be held at the decision of the President, with the approval of the Executive Council of WFA, at the time and place of the WSCA convention and/or tournament.
- Section 2. Special meetings may be called by the President with the approval of the Executive Council upon the notification of all members of the association.
- Section 3. A quorum shall consist of the active members in the attendance at the annual meeting. For a special meeting a quorum shall consist of one-fourth of the membership.

#### Article VIII. Amendments

This constitution may be amended by a three-fourths vote of the voting membership present at the annual meeting. Amendments may be proposed by any member provided such proposal is submitted to the Secretary-Treasurer at least sixty days before the date of the annual meeting, and provided that a copy of the proposed amendment has been sent by the Secretary-Treasurer to all members at least thirty days before the date of the annual meeting.

#### By-Laws

1. Parliamentary Authority. The parliamentary authority of this association shall be Robert's Rules of Order, Revised.

2. Procedure of Amending By-Laws. The by-laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the active members in attendance at the annual meeting. Amendments may be proposed by any member provided such proposal is submitted by the Secretary-Treasurer to all members at least ten days before the date of the annual meeting.

(Adopted by the WFA members in the meeting on November 25, 1960 held in conjunction with the WSA Convention at the Hotel Benton, Corvallis, Oregon. Amended at the annual meeting on November 28, 1964 held in conjunction with WSA Forensic Tournament at Idaho State University, Pocatello, Idaho. Revised copy published 1-1-73. Amended at the annual meeting on February 15, 1981 at the San Jose Hiatt House held in conjunction with the WSCA convention and tournament. Amended at the annual meeting on February 19, 1984 in Seattle, Washington. This edition: March 1985.)