

**By-Laws of the Georgia Chapter
of the
National Association of Teachers of Singing**

(Revised October 23, 2020: Voted and Approved by the Chapter on November 2, 2020.)

ARTICLE I – NAME

As chartered in Georgia by the Executive Committee of the National Association of Teachers of Singing, and subject to its By-Laws, the name of this organization is the Georgia Chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE AND CODE OF ETHICS

The Georgia Chapter adopts fully the stated purposes of the National Association which is organized to benefit the public good and generally enrich the public through: (i) 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; and (iv) organizing and affiliating its Members to provide nationwide accessibility to qualified teachers for all students of singing. The Georgia Chapter, as an organization, subscribes without reservation to the "Code of Ethics," adherence to which is one of the conditions of individual membership in the National Association.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

All teachers of singing who have been accepted by the National Association into Full, Associate, Affiliate, or Emeritus membership, or approved for student membership and who reside or teach in the geographical area which the Georgia Chapter has been chartered or otherwise encouraged to serve, are immediately eligible for membership in the Chapter. No such member shall be refused membership in the Georgia Chapter; however, such chapter membership is not obligatory on the part of the individual. Chapter membership will be terminated when a member resigns from or is dropped from membership in the National Association (Also, see ARTICLE VII.)

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS

The elected Executive Board shall consist of PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, TREASURER, AND BOARD MEMBERS who will serve as AUDITIONS CHAIR, SUMMER PROGRAM AUDITIONS CHAIR, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR, CHAIR OF EDUCATION, REPERTORY CONSULTANT, WEB CHAIR, AND CHAPTER ARCHIVIST. The PAST PRESIDENT and the DISTRICT GOVERNOR shall serve in an ex-officio capacity. The term of office shall be two years. Neither the President nor the Vice President shall serve consecutively for more than two terms, though they may properly succeed others in these offices.

The EXECUTIVE BOARD shall outline programs; direct the policy, activity and growth of the Chapter; secure speakers and other talent for meetings; and promote membership in the Chapter in accordance with the membership regulations established by the National Association.

The PRESIDENT shall preside at all meetings of the Chapter and present such matters as may properly come before the body, be in ex-officio capacity on all committees, and keep the membership informed of the activities of the organization. The President shall complete all reports as requested by the NATS National Office.

The VICE PRESIDENT shall assist the president in his/her duties and preside at meetings when the President is absent.

The SECRETARY shall keep accurate minutes of all meetings, conduct necessary correspondence and submit chapter news to the Journal of Singing and Inter Nos.

The TREASURER shall keep an accurate account of the finances of the Chapter, confirm payment of dues, collect payment for all workshop fees and pay all approved bills of the Chapter. At the annual Chapter Business Meeting, the treasurer will submit in written form a report of the chapter's finances.

The AUDITIONS CHAIR shall accept registrations for all student auditions and be responsible for the complete operation of the student auditions.

The SUMMER PROGRAM AUDITIONS CHAIR shall accept registrations and be responsible for the complete operation of the annual SERNATS summer program auditions.

The PRIVATE STUDIO OUTREACH AND SUPPORT CHAIR shall maintain close ties with voice instructors who maintain their own independent teaching studio or otherwise teach outside of a college/university setting. This officer shall create or coordinate opportunities for the ongoing professional development, as well as for community-building, for this category of teacher of singing.

The CHAIR OF EDUCATION shall be responsible for planning and implementing enrichment experiences for the Chapter including workshops and study opportunities.

The REPERTORY CONSULTANT shall hear and decide questions of appropriate repertory for the student auditions.

The WEBMASTER/ARCHIVIST CHAIR shall maintain the Chapter website and chapter social media, working in cooperation with other Executive Committee members to supply current information about upcoming events to the membership. This officer shall also archive on the Chapter website documents concerning recent Chapter events as well as maintain such other materials as are available about the history of the Chapter.

Special officers, committees, or chairpersons may be appointed by the President to serve in such temporary capacities as occasions may demand. Any administrative officer, whether elected or appointed, shall cease to hold office upon termination of his/her membership in the National Association. Any elected officer may be removed from office, upon due cause, by two-thirds vote of the Chapter membership.

ARTICLE V – MEETINGS

There shall be at least one business meeting of the Chapter each year. This will be held in conjunction with the State Student Auditions. The Executive Board will meet separately each year. Announcement of the annual Chapter business meeting will be sent to chapter members. Members may submit agenda items and nominations to the President prior to the meeting. Since the Georgia Chapter serves a large geographical area, chapter meetings will rotate to various parts of the area. Chapter meetings may be called by the President or by any responsible segment of the membership, provided in the latter instance, that Chapter officers and the remainder of the Chapter membership are notified at least twenty-one days in advance of such a meeting.

ARTICLE VI – ELECTIONS AND QUORUM

All officers shall serve for a two-year term. The President shall appoint a Nominating Committee such that a report of the committee can be given at the annual Chapter business meeting, at which time a vote will be taken. In the absence of a quorum, a vote will be taken electronically following the meeting. A quorum will consist of one-third of the active membership. At any regular meeting, each member in good standing shall be entitled to vote in person upon any motion or question properly brought before the Chapter. Officers shall take office on January 1.

ARTICLE VII – DUES AND ASSESSMENTS

The annual Chapter dues shall be assessed and are payable by January 1 of each year. New members must complete the membership process by the registration deadline for fall Student Auditions. The Chapter will follow National NATS policy for lapsed membership. The dues amount may be changed upon recommendation of the Executive Board and a vote of the membership. Assessments over and above the annual dues will be charged as conditions warrant. NATS Members with Emeritus Status who join the Georgia chapter will not be assessed Chapter dues. Student membership to the chapter will not include payment of dues.

ARTICLE VIII – CHAPTER FINANCES

The Chapter Treasurer shall maintain the Chapter's bank account according to procedures established by the National Association, as well as financial procedures established by votes of the Chapter Executive Board or the Chapter membership. The Chapter Secretary shall maintain a record of financial procedures approved by a vote of the Chapter Executive Board or the entire Chapter membership.

Any potential expenditures outside of National Association procedures and previously established Chapter level procedures shall be managed as follows:

1. Any single expense, or single category of expenses, that is \$500 or less must be approved collectively by the Chapter President, Chapter Vice President, and Chapter Treasurer.
2. Any single expense or category of expenses that is greater than \$500, or any recurring expense, must be approved by a vote of either the entire Executive Board or a quorum of the Chapter membership.

ARTICLE IX – PROGRAM AND PROCEDURES

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. Business meetings shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's RULES OF ORDER.

ARTICLE X – AMENDMENTS

The By-Laws of the Chapter may be augmented, repealed, or amended by a majority vote of a quorum of the Chapter membership. The vote may occur in person or electronically, provided that such amendments have been announced to the membership at least twenty-one days in advance of the voting date.