



# BYLAWS OF THE NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY (NSHS)

## **Section I. Name and Object**

(1) The name of this association shall be the Nebraska State Historical Society (hereinafter referred to as NSHS) and, as provided for in Neb. Rev. Stat. §82-101; it shall be an agency of the state. Its object shall be to promote the study and understanding of the history of Nebraska as provided in its mission statement and as authorized by law. The NSHS shall have all the authority granted to it by law.

## **Section II. Membership**

The NSHS is also a membership organization. Membership in the NSHS shall be open to all persons interested in the accomplishment of its purposes. The following classes of membership with annual dues rates, if required, and benefits are as set forth in the following paragraphs.

1. Membership classes requiring the annual payment of dues and their benefits shall be:

(a). Classes and annual twelve (12) month dues:

(1). Subscription: \$32.00.

(a). Four successive issues of the Nebraska History journal. A double issue, when published, counts as two successive issues.

(b). Four successive issues of Nebraska History News, the NSHS newsletter, distributed in either printed or electronic format.

(c). Receiving and casting one (1) ballot in the annual election of the Board of Trustees of the NSHS in the same manner as dues-paying members of the NSHS.

(2). Individual: \$40.00, or \$70.00 for two (2) years (twenty-four [24] months). Provides benefits as stated in Section II, 1 (a)(1)(a through c)) above plus

(a). A discount of 10% off regularly posted prices of stock in the NSHS Landmark Stores unless otherwise announced or posted by Landmark Stores personnel.

(b). Free admission to NSHS historic sites, statewide.

(c). Invitations to NSHS member's events such as openings of exhibitions.

(d). Discounts on selected educational programming.

(e). Discounts on selected services in the Library/Archives.

(f). Ability to reserve in advance microfilm readers/printers in the Reference Room at 1500 R Street, in Lincoln. (Subject to first come, first serve rule.)

(3). Household: \$55.00 or \$100.00 for two years (24 months). Provides benefits as stated in Section II, 1 and 2 for two adults and children under 18 years of age resident in the household.

(4). Contributing: \$150.00. Provides benefits as stated in Section II, 1 and 2.

(5). Supporting: \$250.00. Provides benefits as stated in Section II, 1 and 2.

(6). Sustaining: \$500.00. Provides benefits as stated in Section II, 1 and 2.

(7). Founder: \$1,000.00. Provides benefits as stated in Section II, 1 and 2.

(8). Partners: \$33.00

Partner membership for an individual held in conjunction with one or more mission-related historical organizations/historical museums within the State of Nebraska. Benefits provided by the NSHS are limited to:

(a). Four successive issues of the Nebraska History journal. A double issue, when published, counts as two successive issues.

(b). Free admission to the NSHS historic sites (Chimney Rock, Fort Robinson Museum, Kennard House, Neligh Mill and the Norris House) for the individual member and his/her immediate family only, defined as spouse and children age 18 and living in the member's household.

(c). Discount in the NSHS Landmark Stores upon presentation of partner membership documents.

(d). Receiving and casting one (1) ballot in the annual election of the Board of Trustees of the NSHS in the same manner as other dues-paying members of the NSHS.

## 2. Joint Membership:

When specifically authorized by the NSHS Board of Trustees, the NSHS may offer at rates approved from time to time by the Board of Trustees, a membership that simultaneously includes a membership in another organization. Said organization shall have educational and/or historical purposes similar to those of the NSHS, whether that organization be located within or outside of Nebraska. Such membership shall not exceed one (1) year, twelve (12) months in length. Conditions of renewal are subject to the provisions governing such joint membership as determined by the NSHS and the partnering organization. Benefits of such membership insofar as they relate to the NSHS shall be those

accorded either dues-paying members or subscription members as determined by the Board of Trustees at the time such membership is offered.

3. Discounted Membership:

The Board of Trustees of the NSHS may approve from time to time the offering of discounted membership rates from any or all of the classes of dues-paying memberships. Such discounts shall be applied to annual fees that are charged for memberships for either one (1) year (twelve [12] months) or longer than one (1) year (twelve [12] months) as the Board of Trustees shall determine. The Board of Trustees shall determine the discounted rate and the length of time during which such memberships are offered to prospective members. The Board of Trustees may also limit the availability of such discounted memberships as it deems appropriate including, but not limited to, prohibiting existing members from taking advantage of these offers.

4. General Membership:

(a). As provided for in Section 82-101.02. there is established the class of membership to be known as a general membership, said general membership not requiring the payment of annual dues, and which is open to any individual resident in the State of Nebraska who shall submit a written request for such membership to the NSHS at its Lincoln business address. Such membership shall be for one (1) year (twelve [12] months).

(b). Benefits available to a person holding a general membership shall be restricted to casting one (1) ballot in the annual election of the Trustees of the NSHS in the same manner as all others holding valid memberships in the NSHS.

5. Honorary Membership:

The Board of Trustees is authorized from time to time to award an honorary membership to an individual resident either within or outside of the State of Nebraska who is distinguished for scientific or literary attainments or for the promotion of historical study. Such honorary membership shall have a term to be determined by the Board.

6. Previous Categories of Membership:

Two categories of membership no longer offered (Life and Joint Life-Spouse) shall continue to be recognized as valid and will convey benefits as above, except that the Joint Life-Spouse shall continue to receive two (2) ballots so long as both spouses are living. When one spouse is deceased, the remaining spouse will receive one (1) ballot.

### **Section III. Meetings**

(1) Annual meetings of the membership of the NSHS shall be held at such time and place, not less frequently than once per calendar year, as may be determined by the board of trustees, at least one hundred eighty (180) days prior to the date of the annual meeting. The meeting shall be conducted in such manner as the board of trustees shall designate. Special meetings of the membership of the NSHS may be called by the president at his or her discretion and shall be called by the secretary on the written request of five (5) members of the board of trustees or of fifty (50) members of the NSHS. No other business shall be transacted at special meetings than that specified in the call therefore. Notice of all meetings of the membership shall be mailed to all active members at least ten (10) days before the date of such meeting. The right to take part in the proceedings of meetings of the membership shall be confined to active members in good standing. A member shall be considered in good standing, for the purposes of these bylaws, when the member has fulfilled all requirements for membership. Fifty (50) members shall constitute a quorum at a meeting of the membership, but a lesser number may adjourn the meeting to a subsequent date.

### **Section IV. The Board of Trustees**

(1) The board of trustees consists of twelve (12) members elected by the NSHS membership and three (3) members appointed by the governor of the state of Nebraska. Four (4) trustees are elected from each Nebraska congressional district, and one (1) trustee is appointed by the governor from each Nebraska congressional district. If congressional district boundaries are altered or the number of congressional districts is increased or decreased, the board of trustees shall be adjusted as provided by law. Terms of the Trustees shall be as prescribed in Neb.Rev. Statutes Section 82-101.01 (3) et.seq. Elections for the Board of Trustees shall be conducted as prescribed in Neb. Rev. Statute Section 82.101.01

#### (2) Emeritus Trustees

- a. There is established the honorific title of Emeritus Trustee of the NSHS.
- b. Any elected or appointed NSHS Trustee, upon honorably completing his/her term of service as a Trustee of the NSHS may, upon his or her written request and the approval of the Board of Trustees then in office, be granted the title, Emeritus Trustee of the NSHS.
- c. An Emeritus Trustee shall hold such title so long as the Emeritus Trustee maintains an active membership in the NSHS.
- d. Emeritus Trustees shall have all the rights and privileges of the class of membership they maintain in the NSHS including the right to attend open meetings of the Board of Trustees.

- e. Emeritus Trustees are not voting members of the Board of Trustees, nor are they eligible for the reimbursement of their expenses for serving as Emeritus Trustees.
- f. Emeritus Trustees may stand for election to the Board of Trustees, be appointed to fill out the term of a Trustee or accept the Governor's appointment to the Board of Trustees insofar as such action(s) are consistent with all sections of these bylaws.

## **Section V. Officers of the Board of Trustees**

(1) At the last meeting of the board of trustees in each calendar year, the trustees shall elect from their incoming and continuing membership a president, a first vice-president, a second vice-president, and a treasurer who shall be the officers of the NSHS and of the board of trustees. The term of office shall be one (1) year, to take effect January 1 following the election, and any trustee elected to office may be reelected to and serve in office so long as the individual is a member of the board of trustees.

(2) Vacancies in any of the offices may be filled by the board of trustees for the period until the next annual meeting. Officers shall serve until their successors are elected or appointed. The elected and appointed members of the board of trustees shall be regular members of the board of trustees and shall be entitled to vote on all matters presented to the board of trustees.

(3) The duties of the president shall be to preside at meetings of the NSHS and of the board of trustees, to appoint committees authorized by the board of trustees, and to perform such other duties as may be prescribed by law. In the absence of the president, the first vice-president shall perform the duties of the president. In the absence of the president and the first vice-president, the second vice-president shall perform the duties of the president.

(4) The treasurer shall have such duties as may be prescribed by law or by the board of trustees.

(5) The board of trustees shall elect, by ballot, a director who shall also serve as secretary to the board of trustees. The term of office of the director shall be at the pleasure of the board of trustees. The director shall, with the president, make an annual report to the governor as required by law, keep the minutes of the meetings of the NSHS and of the board of trustees, conduct correspondence of the NSHS, collect dues of the NSHS and be in charge of the management and administration of the NSHS, subject only to the direction of the board of trustees and state law. The director shall keep a detailed account of receipts and disbursements which shall be open for inspection by members of the board of trustees and report such transactions to the NSHS at its annual meeting or at such other time as it may require such report or to the

board of trustees on its request. The board of trustees shall fix the salary to be paid to the director, said salary to be paid from State of Nebraska appropriated funds.

(6) Any officer of the board of trustees shall perform such additional or different duties as may from time to time be imposed by the board of trustees or prescribed by the bylaws.

Members of the board of trustees shall not be paid for their services but may be allowed expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties.

## **Section VI. Meetings of the Board of Trustees**

(1) Meetings of the board of trustees shall be held at least quarterly and at such time or place as may be determined in advance by the board of trustees and in accordance with state statutes including public notice and open meeting laws. Special meetings of the board of trustees may be called by the president or the director of the NSHS, with approval of the president, or shall be called by the director upon written request by five (5) members of the board of trustees. Eight (8) members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of the board of trustees but a lesser number may be authorized to adjourn the meeting.

(2) If any elected member is absent from three (3) consecutive regular meetings of the board of trustees, except for good cause as determined by the board of trustees, or by consent of the board of trustees, the board of trustees may request that the member resign his or her position on the board or in the case of a gubernatorial appointment, it may request the Governor to appoint a replacement.

## **Section VII. Sale and Distribution of NSHS Publications**

In adopting these bylaws, the board of trustees of the NSHS authorizes the sale and/or distribution of its publications including Nebraska History, Nebraska History News, the Annual Report and such books and/or pamphlets as the NSHS may prepare or publish from time to time, in its own retail outlets and commercial outlets, through exchanges with other historical and cultural organizations both within and outside of Nebraska, in support of the NSHS membership program and as a normal and routine part of its mission to share and disseminate information and research pertaining to the history of Nebraska and its people. The board of trustees authorizes the Director of the NSHS to set policies and prices as he or she deems appropriate for the sale and/or distribution of NSHS publications.

## **Section VIII. Parliamentary Authority**

(1) The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the NSHS in all cases to which they are applicable and in which

they are not inconsistent with Nebraska state statutes, the bylaws of the NSHS, and any special rules of order the NSHS may adopt.

## **Section IV. Amendments**

(1) These bylaws may be amended by the board of trustees at any duly-convened meeting of the Board.

Adopted by the Nebraska State Historical Society Board of Trustees, September 9, 1994.

Amended by the Nebraska State Historical Society Board of Trustees, September 26, 2003.

Amended by the Nebraska State Historical Society Board of Trustees, April 2, 2004.

Amended by the Nebraska State Historical Society Board of Trustees, June 4, 2004.

Amended by the Nebraska State Historical Society Board of Trustees, October 14, 2005.

Amended by the Nebraska State Historical Society Board of Trustees, April 15, 2011

Amended by the Nebraska State Historical Society Board of Trustees, June 24, 2011

Amended by the Nebraska State Historical Society Board of Trustees, April 13, 2012

Amended by the Nebraska State Historical Society Board of Trustees, April 10, 2015