

Constitution of the Nebraska Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese

ARTICLE 1 – NAME AND AFFILIATION

The name of this organization shall be the Nebraska Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, hereafter referred to as NATSP or the Association. The NATSP will serve as the Nebraska chapter of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP) and will constitute part of the Nebraska International Language Association (NILA). Its territory shall encompass the entire state of Nebraska.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

The purposes of the NATSP shall be to advance the study and teaching of Spanish and Portuguese language, culture, and literature in the state of Nebraska.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Members of the NATSP shall be members of the AATSP.

Section 2. Any teacher / retired teacher of Spanish or Portuguese, college/university student studying languages, or anyone else interested in the teaching or study of Spanish and/or Portuguese languages, cultures, and/or literatures in the state of Nebraska shall be eligible for consideration for membership in the NATSP. Other persons with a demonstrated interest in the Association and its purposes may also be considered for active membership. Honorary members may be considered (See Bylaws).

Section 3. Neither membership in, nor services provided by the organization, will be denied to anyone on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, physical or mental handicap, age, sex, sexual preference, ancestry, or medical condition, as per Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972.

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS

Section 1 . The elected officers of the NATSP shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The appointed officers of NATSP shall be Reporter, National Spanish Exam Coordinator, Portuguese Representative, and Western Representative. Each shall be a member in good standing with the NATSP and AATSP.

Section 2. The terms of office shall be two years. The President and Vice President are limited to serving one term in their offices. The Secretary

and Treasurer may be elected to serve additional consecutive terms at the discretion of the Executive Council. After one term out of office, however, each officer shall be eligible for election to that same office, if so nominated. The election of officers shall take place in odd-numbered years at the fall meeting of the NATSP. The term of office shall begin immediately following the NATSP meeting in which officers were elected. After two years the Vice President shall move to the office of President.

ARTICLE V – EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Executive Council will administer the affairs of the NATSP, and have charge of all business between regularly scheduled chapter meetings. Its actions will be subject to review by members at the annual meeting.

ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS

The NATSP shall conduct a business meeting annually in conjunction with the fall conference of NILA for the purpose of reviewing legislation or acts of the executive board, and/or for the transaction of any other business of the session which may be properly presented. A quorum shall consist of those Association members present at any, previously announced Association meeting. In case no meeting is held, any business of the session may be handled by a mail and/or e-mail ballot of the membership in which case action will be determined by a majority of the votes returned one calendar month after the ballots were issued. Additional meetings may be called, as deemed necessary, by the Executive Committee or by petition of fifteen percent (15%) of the active members of the association; all members shall have been notified of the meeting and its purpose(s) at least 30 days in advance by mail and/or e-mail and/or through the Nebraska Department of Education website. A meeting of the Executive Council shall occur before a business meeting.

ARTICLE VII – ELECTIONS

Election procedures are outlined in the Association's bylaws.

ARTICLE VIII: PROGRAMMABLE EXPENSES

The fiscal year will run from June 1 of the current year to May 31 of the following year. The Executive Council of the NATSP shall be charged with the responsibility of expending funds for programmable expenses.

Article IX: ENABLING CLAUSE AND VALIDITY

Section 1. This Constitution and its by-laws supersedes all previous constitutions and by-laws of this Chapter.

Section 2. This Constitution was presented to the Membership on the NDE Spanish / Portuguese teacher listserv, and on the NDE web-site prior to the Fall 2007 meeting of the NATSP and approved at that meeting by a vote of two-thirds majority of those members present and voting.

ARTICLE X – AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Section 1. The Constitution and By-laws shall be reviewed annually by the Executive Council. Amendments to this constitution and by-laws shall be proposed by the Executive Council. Other NATSP members may petition for the proposal of an amendment to this constitution and / or by-laws. The valid signatures of no less than 15 per cent of the active membership must support this proposal and it must be turned in to the President, in writing, by 60 days prior to the fall meeting. Upon verification of the validity of the requisite number of signatures, the executive council is obligated to propose the amendment at the next general meeting.

Section 2. Proposed amendments shall be published immediately on the Spanish / Portuguese page of the NDE website and distributed through the world language list serve at least thirty days before the fall meeting, proposed at the fall meeting, and discussed and voted on at the fall meeting.

Section 3. TWO THIRDS (2/3) of the members present must vote in favor of an amendment to the CONSTITUTION for it to become part of the articles. A MAJORITY of members present must vote in favor of an amendment to the BY-LAWS for it to become part of the by-laws.

Section 4. Amendments to the Constitution and By-laws become effective immediately after approval by the membership. A current copy of the Constitution and By-laws shall be posted at the Spanish / Portuguese page of the NDE website.

ARTICLE XI – DISSOLUTION

In the event of the dissolution of the Nebraska Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, the funds and archives of the organization shall be dispersed by a special meeting of the Executive Council for use in furthering the study of world cultures and languages, possibly including the Nebraska Foreign Language Camp, NILA, AATSP, replacement organization to NATSP, etc.