



○ Bylaws of the South Carolina Marine Educators Association

*(as amended and approved, March 31, 2001)*

#### Article I – Name

The name of this organization shall be the South Carolina Marine Educators Association, herein referred to as "the Association."

#### Article II – Purposes

This Association is formed exclusively for educational scientific and other similar nonprofit purposes. The specific objectives of the Association are:

- a. To provide a medium for the exchange of marine and aquatic education information and teaching materials;
- b. To make available to educators information concerning the selection, organization and presentation of marine education materials at all levels;
- c. To provide assistance to other societies, organizations, agencies and individuals conducting research and investigations in the field of marine and aquatic education;
- d. To work for the improvement of the professional qualifications of marine educators.

#### Article III – Membership

- Section 1. The membership shall be open to all persons without regard to race, color, creed, sex, or age, who are sympathetic to the purposes of the Association.
- Section 2. Categories of membership, and annual membership dues shall be determined by the Executive Board. Those whose membership has been expired for more than six months shall be automatically dropped from the active membership list.

#### Article IV – Officers

- Section 1. The Officers of the Association shall be President, President-Elect, Past President, Secretary, Treasurer, NMEA Chapter Representative, and five directors.
- Section 2. A nominating committee shall be appointed by the President at least three months prior to the Annual Meeting. The committee shall nominate a candidate for each office.
- Section 3. The slate of nominees shall be presented during the Annual Meeting of the Association during its Annual Conference. Active members may make additional nominations and officers shall be elected by a majority vote of active members present at the Annual Meeting.
- Section 4. All officers except the Secretary, the Treasurer and the Directors shall serve a one year term beginning at the Association's Annual Meeting and shall continue in office until the next Annual Meeting or until successors are elected.
- Section 5. The Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Directors shall serve a term of two years beginning at the Annual Meeting in which they are elected. Directors shall be eligible for other offices during their term. If a vacancy arises as a result of a Director being elected to another position on the Board, that vacancy shall be filled at the Annual Meeting in which the Director assumes another office.
- Section 6. The duties of the Officers shall be such as usually pertain to the offices held, and also other duties as may be assigned by the President or prescribed by the Bylaws.
- Section 7. In the case of death, resignation, or inability of the President to serve, the President-elect shall assume the duties of the vacant office. Officers to fill any other vacancies shall be appointed by the President.

#### Article V – Duties of the Officers

- Section 1. The President shall preside at the meetings of the Association and at meetings of the Officers. The President shall appoint the Chair and members of all Standing and Ad Hoc Committees as provided in the Bylaws, with the consent of the other Officers. The President shall provide leadership in affecting the purposes of the Association and shall provide a President's report to the membership during the Annual Meeting covering the activities of the Association during his or her term in

office. The President shall serve as an ex-officio member on all committees except the nominating committee and shall assume all other duties normally associated with the office. The President shall oversee the fulfillment of all chapter responsibilities, as described by the NMEA by-laws.

- Section 2. The President-elect shall assume the duties of the President in his/her absence or in case of the President's inability to serve. The latter condition will be determined by a two-thirds vote of the Officers. The President-elect shall assume the office of President and/or perform the duties of other officers under the conditions outlined in Article IV,
- Section 7. The President-elect shall work cooperatively with the President in administering the affairs of the Association, shall be responsible for chairing the Annual Conference Committee, and shall assume other duties associated with the office.
- Section 3. The Past-president shall serve as an officer and as a member of the Nominating Committee.
- Section 4. The Treasurer shall oversee the management of the Association's fiscal affairs including the collection and disbursement of Association funds and keeping accounts in books belonging to the Association. The Treasurer shall also manage the membership list and present a membership and financial report at the Annual Meeting of the Association.
- Section 5. Directors are officers of the Association and shall serve on committees as appointed by the President.
- Section 6. The Secretary shall record and distribute minutes of all board meetings and the annual business meeting.

#### Article VI – Meetings

The Association shall hold an Annual Meeting of the membership each calendar year during the Association's "Annual Conference." In addition, the President shall fix the time and place for all Officers' meetings.

#### Article VII – Executive Board

- Section 1. The Officers of the Association shall constitute the Executive Board. Every effort will be made to have a minimum of two classroom teachers on the Executive Board.
- Section 2. The Executive Board shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Association between its business meetings, fix the time and place of meetings, make recommendations to the Association and shall perform other duties as are specified in these Bylaws.
- Section 3. The Membership shall elect a NMEA Chapter Representative who shall fulfill all representative duties as described by the NMEA by-laws.

#### Article VIII – Committees

- Section 1. The President shall appoint the members of standing committees as provided by the Bylaws and shall, with the consent of the other officers, appoint a chair for each committee, unless otherwise stated in the Bylaws.
- Section 2. The President may appoint Ad Hoc committees and their chairs, as he/she may deem advisable.
- Section 3. A Conference Planning Committee shall be appointed by the President-elect who shall serve as the chair of the committee. It shall be the duty of this committee to plan the Annual Conference of the Association.
- Section 4. The Officers of the Association shall serve as members of the Newsletter Committee and shall provide information and assistance to the newsletter editor, appointed by the President.

Article IX – Parliamentary Authority. The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the Association in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Bylaws of the Association.

Article X – Amendments to the Bylaws. These Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the membership present at a duly constituted meeting of the Association or by a majority vote of all members responding to a mailed ballot.

Article XI – Dissolution. The Association may be dissolved by a vote of three-fourths of the active members present at a duly constituted Annual Meeting provided that notice is given at least thirty (30) days before the meeting to each active member that the purpose of the meeting

or one of the purposes of the meeting is to dissolve the Association. In the event of dissolution or termination of the Association, title to and possession of all property of the Association shall pass forthwith to such organization, dedicated to similar purposes and qualified for exemption under Section 501 (c) (3) of the United States Internal Revenue Service Code of 1954, as amended, or under such successor provision of the Code as may be in effect at the time of the Association's dissolution or termination, as the Officers of the Association shall deem best qualified to carry on the function of the Association.