

CONSTITUTION
OF THE
MISSISSIPPI ENGINEERING SOCIETY

Adopted May 11, 1976

~~(And as Revised through September 29, 2004)~~
(INSERT DATE OF REVISION)

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this organization shall be the MISSISSIPPI ENGINEERING SOCIETY, a body incorporated under the laws of the State of Mississippi, hereinafter called the Society.

ARTICLE II: OBJECTIVES

In order to safeguard life, health, and the public welfare, as affected by the practice of engineering, the objectives of this Society shall be: To represent the body of Engineers in Mississippi; and to encourage high standards of Engineering Education in the State by creating public interest in the value of Engineering services; to strengthen and broaden the educational, professional, social, and economic interests of the Engineering Profession through mutual aid and support by attention to public relations, through legislation, and by the maintenance of the integrity and high standards of professional practice; to promote the advancement and protect the interest of the Engineer Intern; and to create and advance public recognition of the professional status of the Engineer and the value of the functions, requirements, and accomplishments of Engineering.

ARTICLE III: HEADQUARTERS

The headquarters of this Society shall be located in the Jackson Metropolitan Area.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Membership in the Society shall be designated as Licensed Member, Member, Retired Member, Life Member or Student Member.

Section 2: All members other than Student Members shall have voting privileges in the Society except that only Licensed Members may hold the office of President and may vote on Constitutional changes and only Licensed Members may hold other elected offices.

Section 3: Licensed Member - A Licensed Member shall be defined as a person holding a valid license or certificate of registration as a Professional Engineer, issued under the laws of any state, territory, possession or district of the United States (or a province, or territory of Canada), whose minimum requirements are at least equivalent to those of the State of Mississippi.

- a. Member - A Member shall be defined as a person of high moral character who is:
- (1) A certified Engineer Intern; or
 - (2) A graduate engineer of an engineering program accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET and actively pursuing an engineering career or engaged in postgraduate engineering study.
- b. Student Member - A Student Member shall be defined as a full-time under-graduate or graduate engineering student.
- c. Retired Member - A Retired Member shall be defined as a member in good standing who has reached the age of sixty, retired from full-time employment and/or active practice of engineering and not working more than 20 hours a week and has been a member of the Society in good standing for a period of ten consecutive years ~~immediate~~ immediately preceding.
- d. Life Member - A Life Member shall be defined as a Licensed Member in good standing who has reached the age of sixty-five and retired from full-time practice of engineering and not working more than 20 hours a week who has been a member of the Society in good standing for a period of thirty consecutive years immediately preceding.

Section 4: A Member shall advance to the Licensed Member grade as soon as eligible by ~~registration~~ licensure.

Section 5: Should the ~~registration~~ licensure of any Licensed Member lapse or be revoked for any reason, said person shall automatically cease to be a member of the Society.

Section 6: All members, other than Student Member, whose dues are currently paid shall be eligible to vote in the Society. If the dues of any member remain unpaid three months after due date, said member shall be dropped from the rolls of the Society as a member and his name shall be removed from the mailing list of the Society to receive all notices and publications issued by the Society. Readmission will be in accordance with the By-Laws.

Section 7: A member may be expelled, suspended, or censured by the Society, for cause, as provided in the By-Laws.

Section 8: Each applicant for membership shall receive either a written notice of acceptance of his application or a written notice of rejection, for cause, following the action of the Board upon his application.

Section 9: A nonresident member shall be a member who does not reside in Mississippi.

Section 10: Each resident member of the Society shall also be a member of the Chapter for the area in which he or she lives as provided by the By-Laws.

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS

Section 1: The officers of the Society shall consist of a President, a President-Elect, a Past President, ~~a President-Elect-Elect~~, a Secretary-Treasurer, a Secretary-Treasurer Elect, Regional Directors as allotted by NSPE and three Regional Vice Presidents. When the Society has two or more Regional Directors the President shall serve as one of the Regional Directors. The terms of office shall be as follows: President, President-Elect, Past President, Secretary-Treasurer, and Secretary-Treasurer Elect: one year; elected Regional Directors: two years, and Regional Vice Presidents: three years. Only elected Regional Directors may succeed themselves. After four years of consecutive service, the elected Regional Director may not hold the office again until it at least one full term has been served by another member of the Society.

Section 2: The Board of Directors, hereinafter called the Board, shall be composed of the officers of the Society, the Chairmen of the Practice Divisions, and the State Society Directors from the active chapters.

Section 3: In the absence of the President, the President-Elect shall serve in his **or her** place. In the absence of the Secretary-Treasurer, the Secretary-Treasurer Elect shall serve in his **or her** place. If for any reason either officer is unable to complete his term of office, the officer-elect shall complete the unexpired term and then serve the full administrative year following. When a vacancy for any reason occurs in any of the other elected offices, the vacancy shall be filled by an appointment of the Board. The appointee shall serve the unexpired term of that office.

Section 4: Election of all officers of the Society shall be by letter ballot. A majority of votes cast shall be necessary to elect any officer. The regular annual election of officers will be prior to the annual meeting but not later than January 15. Rules governing the conduct of regular or special elections by letter ballot will be as provided by the By-Laws.

Section 5: The administrative year shall be the basis for determining the term of office of members of the Board. The Administrative year shall be from the close of the summer meeting of the Society to the close of the next summer meeting. All newly elected members of the Board shall take office at the close of the summer meeting following their election.

ARTICLE VI: ADMINISTRATION

Section 1: The President shall be the Executive Officer of the Society. He **or she** shall preside at the meetings of the Society and of the Board and shall be ex-officio member of all committees.

Section 2: The Board shall be the governing body of the Society and shall manage the affairs of the Society, take measures to advance the interest of the Society, and generally direct its business. Forty (40) percent of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum. All actions of the Board may be subject to review by the membership. If a quorum is lacking at any Board Meeting, the Board may be canvassed by letter ballot **or electronic mail** and a majority of the votes cast shall prevail.

Section 3: The Secretary-Treasurer shall be the Secretary of the Board. He **or she** shall handle the finances of the Society and give surety for the protection of the funds and securities of the Society in such amount as the Board shall determine. The premium thereon shall be paid out of funds of the Society. He shall make an annual written report and such other reports as may be prescribed by the Board. He shall perform all other duties which may from time to time be assigned to him by the Board.

ARTICLE VII: MEETINGS

The annual meeting of the Society shall be held during the months of January, February, or March. A summer meeting of the Society shall be held during the month of July or August at such times and places as may be selected by the Board. Special meetings of the Society may be called at the discretion of the Board. Ten percent (10%) of the resident membership qualified to vote shall constitute a quorum at all regular and special meetings. Notice of all regular and special meetings shall be sent each member by the Secretary at least thirty days prior to date of a regular meeting and ten days prior to the date of a special meeting. Meetings of the Board may be called at the discretion of the President or a majority of its membership and shall not be less frequent than once each quarter.

ARTICLE VIII: MEMBERSHIP DUES

Section 1: The annual dues shall be as set by the National Society of Professional Engineers for the national dues, plus additional dues and assessments as set forth in the Mississippi Engineering Society By-Laws.

Section 2: When a Member meets the qualifications of a Licensed Member, he shall not be required to pay any additional current dues, but shall be required to pay the annual dues of his membership grade for the succeeding years.

Section 3: A Licensed Member shall become eligible for life member status with waiver of dues if the person has been a member above the student grade for a period of 40 years, or if the member has retired from full-time employment and is not working more than 20 hours a week, and is at least 60 years of age and has been a member for a continuous period of 30 years.

Section 4: A member in good standing shall become eligible for retired member status if the member has retired from full-time employment and is working no more than 20 hours per week, and is at least sixty years of age and has been a member in good standing for ten years immediately preceding. One-half dues shall be paid annually until Life Membership requirements are met. Application for Retired Membership may be made personally or by the members' chapter.

Section 5: Dues are for a period of 12 consecutive calendar months, and shall become due on the member's anniversary date.

Section 6: The **Secretary**-Treasurer of the Society shall receive dues payments on behalf of the Society and he shall deposit these payments, crediting individual members' accounts accordingly.

ARTICLE IX: AFFILIATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

This Society may affiliate with other organizations provided, however, that each proposal to affiliate obtains approval under the same procedure as is prescribed in Article XXI of this Constitution; and provided further, that each proposal to so affiliate shall concern only one organization other than this Society.

ARTICLE X: NATIONAL SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

This Society shall in all ways be a member State Society of the National Society of Professional Engineers and shall comply with the Constitution and By-Laws, and the Code of Ethics of ~~that Society~~ **the National Society of Professional Engineers**. All ~~Registered Licensed Professional Engineer~~ **Members, Senior Associate Members, Associate Members, Retired Members, Life Members** and Student Members of this Society shall automatically be entitled to and shall receive corresponding grades of membership in the National Society of Professional Engineers and shall receive all benefits to which they are entitled. The Society shall make such membership reports to and pay such dues as required by the National Society of Professional Engineers.

ARTICLE XI: CHAPTERS

Section 1: The membership of the Society may be organized into Chapters. The Board may authorize and charter one Chapter in any county or group of contiguous counties of the State, provided evidence is given that there is a sufficient number of members residing the each area. Each Chapter thus formed shall have a minimum of ten voting members. All voting members of each Chapter shall be members of the Society and National Society of Professional Engineers.

Section 2: The Board shall have authority to make rules and regulations for chartering, fixing Chapter boundaries, combining or dissolving Chapters.

Section 3: Each Chapter chartered by the Society shall adopt such By-Laws for its operation as it may deem proper; provided, however, that nothing contained therein shall conflict with or contravene the Constitution and By-Laws of the Society. Chapter constitution, by-laws, or amendments thereof, shall be subject to prior approval by the Board of Directors of the Society.

Section 4: Chapters shall engage only in such activities as are consistent with professional ideals and ethics. Such activities shall be restricted to the county or counties for which the Chapter is chartered, except as the Board may in other respects authorize.

Section 5: In all matters of local concern not covered by this Constitution and By-Laws, Chapters shall retain full autonomy, shall not in any way obligate the Society, but may call upon the Society for advice, counsel, and assistance.

Section 6: Each Chapter shall be represented on the Board by one director for each one hundred members or fraction thereof.

Section 7: The fiscal year of the Chapters shall coincide with the fiscal year of the Society.

Section 8: Other rules governing the operation of the Chapters will be in accordance with the By-Laws.

ARTICLE XII: STUDENT CHAPTERS

The Board may authorize and charter Student Chapters at senior colleges and other colleges as provided for in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE XIII: PRACTICE DIVISIONS

Section 1: The Board may authorize the establishment of practice Divisions comprising members having common professional problems and interest to operate under the Constitution and By-Laws of the Society. The Board shall define the scope of activities and sphere of interest of such Divisions and shall adopt such rules and regulations governing their activities as may be necessary for their proper operation.

Section 2: The Board may dissolve any Practice Division upon the request of that Division, or if a Practice Division fails to comply with the Constitution and By-Laws or the policies of the Society.

ARTICLE XIV: REGIONS

The State shall be divided along Chapter boundaries to form three consecutively numbered or named Regions as provided in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE XV: GOOD STANDING

Section 1: Rules and conditions of good standing shall be as provided in the By-Laws.

Section 2: Members must be in good standing to vote or hold elective office in the Society.

ARTICLE XVI: OBLIGATIONS AND PRIVILEGES

Section 1: All members of the Society shall have the right to vote in the Chapters of which they are members and to serve on Society or Chapter committees. All members of the Society shall be allowed to display the insignia of the Society as authorized.

Section 2: Only Licensed Members may hold the office of President. Only Licensed Members may serve as officers of the Society or as members of the Board of Directors of the Society, or as officers of any Chapter except that Members may hold Chapter offices of President, President-Elect, Secretary or Treasurer or Secretary-Treasurer.

ARTICLE XVII: NOMINATION OF OFFICERS

Section 1: The Nominating Committee shall consist of the three (3) immediate resident Past Presidents and one member from each Chapter, to be selected as provided in the By-Laws.

Section 2: Two nominations shall be made for each elective office to be filled and no member of the Nominating Committee except Past Presidents shall be eligible for nomination by the committee. In the event that no more than one qualified nomination is received for any state office, the Nominating Committee may present a slate nominating a single person for that office.

Section 3: Additional nominations may be made by petition as provided in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE XVIII: COMMITTEES

The president shall appoint special and standing committees as provided in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE XIX: RESOLUTIONS AND PETITIONS

Resolutions and petitions may be presented to the Board by members in good standing as provided in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE XX: EFFECTIVE DATE

The Constitution shall become effective immediately upon approval and after its adoption. Any corresponding enactments previously existing are hereby repealed.

ARTICLE XXI: AMENDMENTS

Section 1: This Constitution may be amended by letter ballot after approval by a majority vote of the Board of Directors and a full discussion in a regular meeting of the Society. The letter ballot shall be submitted to the Society's Licensed Members at least four weeks prior to the date set for the closing of the ballot. A two-thirds affirmative vote, with not less than twenty percent of the Licensed membership voting, shall be required to amend this constitution or any part thereof.

Section 2: When a proposed amendment is presented to the Board in writing and signed by ten percent (10%) of the Registered Professional Engineer Licensed membership in good standing, approval of the Board shall be unnecessary before submission to the Society, in accordance with Section 1 of this Article.

Section 3: The Board shall prepare and adopt a series of By-Laws, which shall govern all procedures under this Constitution, including those of the Board and of the committees. Such By-Laws shall be adopted and may be amended by a concurring vote of not less than two-thirds of the entire membership of the Board, provided that the text of the proposed By-Laws or Amendments shall be in the hands of each member of the Board at least thirty days before the meeting at which a vote on the proposed By-Laws or Amendments is to be taken.