



The following Constitutional Amendments were adopted by the NMSPS membership on April 26, 2016.

Amendment 1. ARTICLE X: Contests, Section 1.

According to the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, a State may change the name of its contest annually. However, our constitution currently specifies the contest name as follows: “For many years, NMSPS has sponsored the national contest titled, Our American Indian Heritage Award.”

Therefore, the constitution wording shall be amended as follows:

For many years, NMSPS has sponsored a national federation contest. The parameters of the contest are open to change each year by vote of the Board, including the poem’s subject, form, and line length; the contest title and entry requirement (i.e., member vs. non-member); and the contest prize amounts for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners.

Amendment 2. ARTICLE III: Membership, Section 1

A new category of membership, Student, shall be added, thus changing the total number of membership categories from five (annual, sustaining, youth, life, and sponsoring) to six.

Therefore, the constitution wording shall be amended as follows:

The membership category of Student qualifies the student for a discounted member rate at 50% of regular annual membership. For the purposes of Student membership, students are defined as those 18 and older who are enrolled in a certificate or degree program at a community college, college, or university, either part- or full-time. Students will be asked annually to identify the institution and program of study. Students who graduate, complete a program, or otherwise separate from the institution will not be eligible for student membership the following member year.

Amendment 3. ARTICLE VIII: Chapters, Section 2

We propose to define “chapter activities” and to state clearly that Society funds are available by request for chapter outreach. The constitution now reads: “Chapter activities will not be financed by the Society.”

Therefore, to clarify, we propose the following changes/additions to the constitutional wording:

Chapter activities (i.e., those that benefit **only** the chapter’s own members, such as refreshments, materials, social activities, or workshop honoraria) will not be financed by the Society. However, Chapter Chairs may apply for funds from the State to host **outreach** events and activities in their communities outside the regular operation and sole benefit of the chapter itself.