

The *New Mexico State Poetry Society, Inc.* was organized in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on March 19, 1969. A constitution was adopted in Albuquerque, NM, October 11, 1969; and the Society was incorporated in Santa Fe, New Mexico, December 7, 1976.

CONSTITUTION
of the
NEW MEXICO STATE POETRY SOCIETY, INC.

ARTICLE I: Name

The name of this organization shall be the New Mexico State Poetry Society, Inc.

ARTICLE II: Description and Object

The New Mexico State Poetry Society, Inc. is a poetry organization within the State of New Mexico, affiliated with the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc., and any other organizations chosen by the members whose purposes are in agreement with those of the NMSPS. It is a non-profit Society, dedicated to the furtherance of poetry. It recognizes the importance of poetry to cultural welfare in the state and elsewhere, and is dedicated to asserting this importance by its support.

The New Mexico State Poetry Society is non-political; it will not participate in political campaigns nor devote its activities to influencing legislation. The purposes of the Society are exclusively literary and educational; therefore, in the event of the dissolution of the Society in accordance with Article XIII, its assets will be distributed for literary, historical and educational purposes to such organizations which are tax exempt under Section 501(c) (3).

ARTICLE III: Membership

Section 1. Membership in the New Mexico State Poetry Society, Inc., is open to all residents of the State and others who wish to forward the purposes of the Society. Both poets and people who are not poets, but who are interested in advancing the cultural arts in New Mexico and elsewhere, are welcome as members.

Section 2. Life members shall be those persons who have been elected Honorary Chancellors, and those who elect to pay Life-Time Membership fee.

Section 3. Any officer or member of the New Mexico State Poetry Society, Inc., may resign his/her membership by indicating his/her intention in writing to the President and to the Corresponding Secretary.

Any member may be dropped from membership, after reasonable deliberation, by a majority vote of the Executive Board. Any member whose dues have been delinquent for more than 60 days shall be dropped.

Section 4. A Membership Chairperson shall be appointed by the President of the Society at the President's discretion. The appointee shall serve for the term of office of the President. He/she shall work with the President, Board, and the Publicity Chairperson with the following duties: 1) secure new chapters and members to the Society, 2) seek to keep members informed as to events and happening of the Society, 3) assist members by bringing forth their ideas to the President and Board, when a member is unable to do so

ARTICLE IV: Officers

Section 1. The officers of the New Mexico State Poetry Society, Inc., shall be the following: president, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, and two Elected Chancellors. In addition, if the Executive Board recommends, one or two additional Vice-Presidents may be elected. It is recommended that, if possible, several cities be represented on the Executive Board.

Section 2. Honorary Chancellors may be elected for life terms, at the recommendation of the Executive Board, by a majority vote of the membership present at an Annual Meeting. Honorary Chancellors shall not be required to pay dues or function in any official capacity. They may, however, hold other offices in the NMSPS upon election with their own consent.

Section 3. Officers of the New Mexico State Poetry Society, Inc., shall be elected at an Annual Meeting held in May of each odd-numbered year, and shall take office upon their election. In February of each odd-numbered year, the President shall appoint a Nominating Committee consisting of a Chairperson and two members. This committee shall present a slate of officers at the April meeting. Nominations may also be made from the floor. A majority of votes cast among a quorum of members present at the Annual Meeting shall constitute an election. If a quorum is not present, the previous officers will remain in office until the earliest time that a membership quorum can be assembled to hold an election.

ARTICLE V: Duties of Officers

President: The President shall preside at all meetings of the Society and of the Executive board; shall call special meetings at his/her discretion; shall appoint chairpersons to all committees; shall appoint special committees; shall fill vacancies in office with the approval of the Executive Board; shall prepare with the assistance of the Board an agenda of meetings; shall present an annual report at the May meeting; shall deal in all administrative and official ways in behalf of the Society as specified elsewhere in this constitution and as conditions may require; and shall act in general to promote the purposes of the Society.

The President shall appoint each year the following Standing Committees: Contest, Hospitality, Membership, Publicity, Yearbook and Program. Chairpersons of Standing Committees shall be members of the Executive Board.

First Vice-President: The First Vice-President shall assist the President as requested; in the absence of the President, the First Vice-President shall perform all the duties of that office.

Second Vice-President: The Second Vice-President shall coordinate the activities of the Secretaries and the Treasurer, and make periodic status reports to the President.

Third and Fourth Vice-Presidents: These are optional officers. If elected, their duty is to assist the President. Each may be appointed by the President to serve as Chairperson of a Standing Committee, if he/she deems advisable.

Recording Secretary: The Recording Secretary shall maintain and preserve records of the New Mexico State Poetry Society, Inc.,(NMSPS), including the minutes of conventions, meetings, and Board meetings. The Recording Secretary shall maintain an accurate roster of members, notify them of meetings, and mail annual dues notices, if so directed by the Executive Board.

Corresponding Secretary: The Corresponding Secretary shall maintain and preserve correspondence of the NMSPS; shall read special and pertinent communications to meetings; shall notify officers, if elected in absentia; shall send letters of congratulation, sympathy, etc, as directed by the Society and its officers.

Treasurer: The Treasurer shall be responsible for receiving and disbursing all monies having to do with the NMSPS. All payments must be approved by the Board, with the following exceptions: 1) payment of National Federation assessment; 2) payment for copies of approved publications sent to members; 3) reimbursement for postage, bank charges, and other necessary routine business of the Society.

The Treasurer shall read an annual financial report at the Annual Meeting and present it to the secretary for preservation.

Elected Chancellors: Elected Chancellors are selected by the Society to advise members on extraorganizational cultural matters. They shall serve as advisors to the President and the Board when called upon to do so.

Honorary Chancellors: Honorary Chancellors shall have no responsibilities as officers. They may, however, hold other offices in the NMSPS upon election, with their own consent. Because of their attainments, their support adds luster to the Society and to its purposes.

ARTICLE VI: Meetings

Section 1. The NMSPS membership shall meet at least once annually, during the month of May, at a time and place determined by the Board.

Section 2. The Executive Board shall meet at least twice a year, in the Spring and in the Fall. Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President or at least three (3) members of the Board at least two (2) weeks prior to the meeting.

Section 3. in addition to the annual meeting, the Society may hold regular meetings at times and places recommended by the Executive Board from September through May. Special meetings may be called by the Board at any time, including the Summer.

ARTICLE VII: Chapters

Section 1. Chapters of the New Mexico State Poetry Society may be formed by any group of five (5) or more people who wish to further the purpose of the Society.

Section 2. Each Chapter may elect its own chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer, and may charge additional dues to its members in order to carry out its own program of activity. Chapter activities will not be financed by the Society. Chapter Treasurers must submit a written financial statement at each Annual Meeting of the NMSPS.

Section 3. All Chapter members must maintain membership in the State Society.

Section 4. Each Chapter shall submit a written report of its activities at each Annual Meeting of the NMSPS.

ARTICLE VIII: Dues, Fees and Assessments

Section 1. A member shall renew membership in the Society by paying dues during the month in which that person's membership became effective the previous year.

Section 2. The rate of dues shall be set at the Annual Meeting, by action of the majority of a quorum present, upon the recommendation of the Executive Board. If no change in dues is voted at this meeting, the former rate of dues shall prevail during the year following. Initial dues rates shall be:

Annual Membership	\$ 15.00
Sustaining Membership	\$ 15.00
Youth Membership	\$ 5.00
Life Membership	\$100.00

Section 3. Life Membership shall last for the life of the member or of the NMSPS.

Section 4. Any persons under 18 years of age, who evidence an interest in poetry or talent in creative writing, may become Youth Members upon payment of a Youth Membership fee after recommendation by a responsible adult sponsor. Youth members shall have all rights of full members except those of voting and of holding office.

Section 5. Society dues shall include the cost of newsletters for one year; and membership in the National Federation of State Poetry Societies for one year at the option of the Executive Board.

Section 6. At the discretion of the Executive board, but not before July 1, 1970, an initiation fee in an amount specified by the Board may be charged to new members of the Society.

Section 7. The Executive Board may, but is not absolutely required, to make emergency assessments to the membership at any time when the Treasurer reports a cash balance of less than \$100. Such assessments shall not be for more than the annual individual dues in effect at the time the assessment is made. no member need pay the assessment against his/her will; but any member more than 60 days in arrears paying an authorized assessment will not be allowed to hold office or to vote in the Society's elections for a period of one year from the date on which the assessment was levied, unless he/she pays it prior to voting or taking office.

ARTICLE IX: Boards

Section 1. The Executive Board of the NMSPS shall consist of all elected officers, Chairpersons of Standing Committees, all past presidents of the NMSPS, who will be members ex-officio with full rights, including voting privileges, the Chairperson of each Chapter active and properly organized in accordance with Article VII, and as many more members, not to exceed five, as may be appointed by the President to serve as Board Members.

Section 2. The terms of members of the Executive Board shall expire at the Annual Meeting of each odd-numbered year. Appointive Board Members may resign at any time, and need not be replaced.

ARTICLE X: Quorum

Section 1. Ten members shall constitute a quorum for all membership meetings.

Section 2. Three members, plus as many members as shall equal one-third of the number of Chairpersons of active and properly organized Chapters, shall constitute a quorum for Executive Board meetings.

ARTICLE XI: Committees

Section 1. Committee Chairpersons may be appointed by the President as need arises. Committees may include: Newsletter; Nominating; Program, Publications; Publicity and Public Relations; Membership, Education (to work with youth); Contest, and others. (At the time this Constitution was amended, the Standing Committees consisted of Hospitality, Program, Contest, Yearbook and Publicity.)

Section 2. Each Chairperson shall have the prerogative of appointing his/her own committee members, subject to the President's approval, although he/she may seek the assistance of the President or Board to obtain suitable committee members.

ARTICLE XII: Contests

Section 1. Memberships in the appropriate State and National Poetry Societies are normally prerequisites for entering some of the National Contests. Only dues-paying members may enter such contests. The same requirement shall prevail in State contests except those which specifically allow entrance by non-member poets.

Section 2. For purposes of this Article, Life Members and Honorary Chancellors shall be considered dues-paying members.

Section 3. Members and others may be invited to contribute small amounts toward contest prizes. Many State Societies hold small monthly contests plus a large annual contest: this procedure is recommended for New Mexico. The Contest Chairperson and his/her committee shall be responsible for obtaining suitable judges from the membership or elsewhere. (At the time this Constitution was amended, it was customary to obtain judges from outside the membership of NMSPS.)

ARTICLE XIII: Dissolution of the Society

Section 1. The President shall have the sole power to initiate the dissolution of the NMSPS at his/her personal discretion. If he/she so decides, he/she shall submit this decision in writing, together with reasons for reaching the decision, to the members of the Executive Board, at a meeting or by certified mail. Unless an absolute majority of the current Executive Board objects within 15 days of such notification, the President may then act to dissolve the Society and distribute the remaining assets in accordance with Articles II and the requirements of the Internal Revenue Code as follows: Upon dissolution of the Society, the President the Executive Board shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all liabilities of the Society, dispose of all assets of the Society exclusively for the purpose of the Society in such manner, or to such literary, historical or educational organization or organizations that shall at that time qualify as an exempt organization under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the Executive Board shall determine. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

Section 2. If the Executive Board chooses to continue the NMSPS despite the President's recommendation for dissolution, it shall accept the President's resignation if offered, and the highest ranking active officer in the order in which officers are enumerated in Article IV, Section 1, shall serve the President's unexpired term.

ARTICLE XIV: Amendments

This Constitution may be amended at any meeting of the NMSPS by two-thirds vote of a quorum present, provided the amendment is presented to the membership at least two (2) weeks prior to the meeting. Ratification may also be made by mailed ballots, should they be deemed advisable, in which case the vote of a majority of current members must be obtained for amendment.

(Date)

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a true and accurate copy of the current
Constitution of the New Mexico State Poetry Society.

President NMSPS

First Vice-President, NMSPS