

# BYLAWS OF THE LEAGUE OF VERMONT WRITERS, INC.

## ARTICLE I-NAME AND PURPOSE

### Section 1-Name:

The name of this organization shall be the League of Vermont Writers, Incorporated, hereinafter referred to as the League.

### Section 2-Purpose:

The aims of the League shall be:

- to bring emerging and established writers together to network and share ideas about writing, marketing, publishing, and related topics
- to assist, encourage, and mentor new writers
- to support all genres, writing styles, and related professions including, but not limited to, editors, publishers, photojournalists, and literary agents
- to present speakers, programming, and resources that inspire, motivate, and help members learn or improve writing skills, keep current with industry trends and new technology, and get published
- to provide an outlet for members to share their writing experiences and successes with others
- to celebrate publication by members through *League Lines*, social media, and display of published works at programs
- to keep members current on League activities and other writing and publishing opportunities through the League's web site, social media, e-mail, and publication of *League Lines*
- to partner and network with other organizations in the state and region, including, but not limited to, publishers, bookstores, and writing groups

## ARTICLE II-MEMBERSHIP

### Section 1--Eligibility:

Membership in the League shall be open to anyone interested in writing. Membership is contingent upon being up-to-date on membership dues.

#### Section 2-Annual Dues:

The amount required for annual dues shall be determined by the board of directors.

#### Section 3-Honorary Members:

A. Any member who joined the League before Jan. 1, 1978, and who has been recognized as a life member, shall be granted honorary membership for life.

B. Invited speakers shall be declared honorary members for one year.

### ARTICLE III-MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

#### Section 1-Meetings:

An annual meeting shall be held in January for the purpose of election of officers and directors-at-large, reports from officers and committees, and other League business. Additional meetings may be called at the discretion of the board of directors.

#### Section 2-Quorum:

Ten percent of the membership shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting, but if less than a majority is present at a meeting, the majority of the members present may adjourn the meeting without further notice.

### ARTICLE IV-BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### Section 1-Board of Directors:

The function of the board of directors shall be to provide direction and governance for the organization. The board shall be composed of no fewer than 10 directors. Directors shall be elected for a period of three years. Each director shall hold office until the annual meeting when his/her term expires and his/her successor has been elected. Any vacancy on the board shall be filled by appointment by the president.

#### Section 2-Elections:

The board shall appoint a Nominating Committee of three or more persons, each for a two-year term. The Nominating Committee shall submit nominations for officers and directors-at-large to the board by Dec. 1. An approved slate of prospective board members shall be published in the January issue of *League Lines* and voted on by the membership at the annual meeting. No member may serve on the board of directors for more than six consecutive years whether as an officer and/or director-at-large.

#### Section 3-Officers:

The board of directors shall include a president, immediate past president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer.

Each officer, with the exception of the immediate past president, shall be elected at the annual meeting for a one-year term and will hold the office until a successor is elected at the next annual meeting unless nominated for another term, in which case, would continue for another one-year term if elected. An officer shall not hold the same position for more than three consecutive one-year terms. In the case of appointment to fill a vacancy for an unexpired term, an officer who has served more than six months of the one-year term is considered to have served a full term in that office.

#### Section 4-Duties of Officers:

A. President: The president shall serve as the chief executive officer of the League and shall preside at all meetings and perform other duties to ensure that the board fulfills its responsibilities for the governance of the League.

B. Immediate past president: The immediate past president shall provide advice and leadership to the board regarding past practices and other matters to assist the board in governing the League and shall support the president on an as-needed basis.

C. Vice president: The vice president shall assist the president as needed and, in the absence of the president, perform all duties of the president.

D. Secretary: The secretary shall record the minutes of the annual meeting and sessions of the board of directors.

E. Treasurer: The treasurer shall be responsible for overseeing the management and reporting of the League's finances, including, but not limited to, collection of membership dues; maintenance of all bank accounts and financial records; handling of financial transactions including bank deposits and issuance of checks. The treasurer also shall maintain the League membership list in consultation with the membership director, prepare a written financial report for the annual meeting, and provide the League with financial and accounting data as required.

#### Section 5-Quorum:

A two-thirds majority of the board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of official business at any meeting of the board.

#### Section 6-Resignation:

Any member of the board may resign at any time by providing written notice to the president.

### ARTICLE V-COMMITTEES

The board may appoint standing committees (appointed for a specific time period), special committees (appointed for a special purpose, such as marketing), or individual members to fill service positions as needed, including, but not limited to, *League Lines* editor, membership director, and Manuscript Critique Service coordinator.

#### ARTICLE VI-PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

*Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall be the parliamentary authority of the League and shall govern the organization when applicable, consistent, and when not in conflict with the bylaws and any special rules of order that the League may adopt.

#### ARTICLE VII-AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended at any annual meeting upon notification of the membership. A two-thirds vote of the members present shall be required to amend and approve any changes to the bylaws.

#### ARTICLE VIII-ARCHIVES

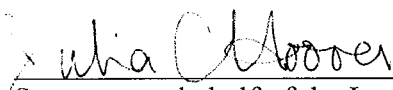
The official records and ephemera of the League, including, but not limited to, issues of *League Lines*, shall be deposited in the archives of the Special Collections Department of the University of Vermont Bailey/Howe Library.

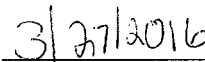
#### ARTICLE IX-DISSOLUTION

In case of dissolution of the League, any assets remaining shall be transferred to the Department of English at the University of Vermont.

#### CERTIFICATION

These bylaws were amended and approved at the annual meeting of the League of Vermont Writers on Jan. 23, 2016 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, 1117 Williston Rd., South Burlington, Vermont, by two-thirds majority vote of the members present.

  
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Secretary on behalf of the League of Vermont Writers, Inc.

  
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Date

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## ADDENDUM

No part of the net earnings of the League shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the purpose clause hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the League shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the publishing or distribution of statements for any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of this document, the League shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170 (c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Upon the dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government for a public purpose. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the organization 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.