

THE "FIRST"

1938
Constitution of the

AMERICAN ACCORDIONISTS ASSOCIATION

CONSTITUTION

Article 1. Name and Object

Section 1: The name of this organization shall be: "The American Accordionists' Association."

Section 2: The object of this organization shall be to recognize talent, effort, performance and accordion development. It shall stand for service to the world of accordions, whether they be men, women or children, who alike have devoted themselves to the furtherance and the elevation of the accordion and the ideals of this association. It shall also be the object of this organization to recognize exceptional service and ability. Special forms and awards shall be prepared for such recognition. From time to time it may be found necessary to form subsidiary organizations to assist and facilitate recognition and to accomplish a designated good. If such organizations are formed they shall become strict subsidiaries and under the jurisdiction of the National Governing Board of the American Accordionists Association. If such organizations are formed they shall bear the name of "The American Accordionists" to precede the subsidiary organization name or title. It is further understood that any subsidiary organization which may become formed, must not be formed for profit to the organization nor to any individual. The new organizations may have their own Constitution and By-Laws, their own officers, either elective or permanent at the discretion of the President and executive board (National Governing Board) of the American Accordionists Association. They shall be required to submit an annual report to the parent association, which is to be placed in the hands of the Secretary-Treasurer, but, their books shall

be open for inspection and auditing at any time.

Article II. Qualification of Members

Section 1: Membership in this organization consists of: 1st., A citation or application properly ~~filled~~ ^{executed} and submitted to the office of the National Secretary. 2nd. The National Secretary shall forward the citation to a music dealer, accordion school or teacher, or all, for verification that the applicant does or does not play the accordion and should or should not be a member of the Association. The National Governing Board shall reserve the privilege and right at all times to accept or reject citations. 3rd. Anyone with qualifications to the effect that he is an accordion player is eligible for membership into the Association. 4th. The National Secretary shall keep at all times the applications for this purpose. 5th. A candidate may submit his name or permit it to become submitted by another person either a member or non-member of the accordion association. 6th. Applications for membership may be had at authorized music dealers, accordion schools, or accordion teachers or at the National Secretary's office. 7th. No candidate for membership may be admitted into this organization without first paying the required financial obligation, which must accompany his application for membership. Any additional expenses from time to time that are placed upon new members must be paid for when application is rendered or submitted. Money shall be paid to the National Secretary-Treasurer, who shall also create set up and maintain a National Emblem Division if, as, and when the need becomes apparent. All emblems and regalia must be paid for in advance. They may not be purchased by anyone other than a bona fide member of the association, and all purchases for regalia, etc. must carry the membership number of the person to whom the regalia, etc. is to be sent. A receipt shall be issued for

any monies sent to the Emblem Division.

Section 2: Membership in this organization shall be considered as membership for life. However, certificate and membership cards shall not carry any mention of life membership, except in special cases where the National Governing Board deems it advisable to issue gold or other type of card to special members signifying unconditional life membership in the Association as a reward for some particular outstanding service. The National Governing Board shall reserve the right to withdraw membership from any active or patron member at any time, for any reason whatsoever as deemed by the National Governing Board as being detrimental to the interests of the association. The usual procedure of votes covering this policy shall be in effect. Membership in this organization shall consist of two types: Active and Patron. The enforcement of this type (Patron) shall be at the discretion of the President and Secretary-Treasurer.

Article III. Officers and Their Election

Section 1: The management of the association shall be entrusted to a National Governing Board consisting of twelve members. These members shall rank in seniority in the following manner:

- 1: National President
- 2: National Secretary-Treasurer
- 3: National Vice-President
- 4: Sergeant at Arms
- ~~5: Liaison Officer~~
- ~~6: Publicity Director (It is recommended that the Liaison and Publicity Director be included in the duties of the Secretary-Treasurer.)~~
- ✓ 7: All of the members of the National Governing Board .

Section 2: The following officers shall be elected annually at the first regular meeting of the association. ^(to) ~~(These are the officers mentioned in Section 1, Art. III.)~~

- National President
- " Secretary-Treasurer
- " Vice-President
- " Sergeant-at-Arms

Article IV. Meetings of the Association

Section 1: This ~~association~~ ^{National Governing Board} shall meet officially on ^{the first} ~~the~~ ^{Thursday} night of _____ week of each month, or at the call of the Secretary-Treasurer, ~~or~~ ^{President and/or the} President.

Article 5. Rules

Section 1: The rules in "Roberts Rules of Order," Revised, shall govern the association in all cases in which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the By-Laws of this association.

Article 6. Amendment *S*

Section 1: This Constitution or any of these By-Laws may be amended by a vote of three-fourths of the National Governing Board members present at the regular meeting.

Section 2: The adopted amendment goes into effect immediately upon its adoption unless the motion to adopt specifies a time for its going into effect.

BY-LAWS

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Article 1. Powers and Duties of the Officers

Section 1: National Officers. These officers shall be in control of all association activities. The National President and Secretary-Treasurer shall supervise the following:

No. 1: PURCHASES AND TITLE: All purchases shall be okehed by the President and made by the Secretary-Treasurer and title for same shall be vested in the Association as long as it exists. Upon presentation of bills to the President he shall okeh for payment and payment ^{shall be} made by the Secretary-Treasurer. ~~Except~~ In cases of unusual expenditures, these shall be okehed by the National Governing Board.

No. 2: *In* Cases of unusual expenses, Ways and Means of raising money shall be under the supervision of these officers, and a special fund created ~~and~~

and/or a Special Committee

and disbursed by these officers at the consent of the National Governing Board. Account of which shall be made at the next following regular meeting.

Section 2: It shall be the duty of the President to preside ^{or designate who shall preside,} at the regular meetings; to enforce strict observance to the Constitution and By-Laws, appoint special committees, of which he shall be an ex-officio member. He shall direct ~~all~~ association activities; appoint all officers not otherwise provided for; call special meetings of the Governing(National) Board and the Association, and perform other duties such as custom and parliamentary usage require.

Section 4: Vice-President: This officer shall assist the President and assume the duties of the President at ~~the annual or~~ regular meetings, or special meetings in the absence of the President.

Section 3: Secretary-Treasurer: He shall keep the records of the Association and National Governing Board meetings, minutes of the meetings, a register of the members (with their names, addresses, and phone numbers), call the roll at the meeting of the National Governing Board and/or the Association; notify officers and committees of appointments, notify all Association members of special meetings, or notify National Governing Board of such special meetings. He shall handle all correspondence, receive and account for all money belonging to the association. His books shall be open at all times for inspection of the National Governing Board and National officers. His books shall be audited at the expiration of each year and at the expiration of his term of office. He shall make arrangements for any special appearances, concerts, etc. and plan and execute any special banquets, etc. He shall act as historian and make all arrangements for publicity pertaining to the association.

Section 7: Sergeant at Arms; It shall be his duty to assist in the collection of any special dues if there shall be such at any meeting, perform any other and such duties as may be determined by the President, and see that the voting members (active) are so qualified. If closed meetings are held it shall be his duty to enforce observance that ~~active members and National Governing Board members, or on special or regular meetings of National Governing Board if those meetings are closed,~~ that only bona fide members shall be permitted to attend.

Article 2. Order of Business

Section 1: The order of business at each meeting shall be:

- 1: Call to order by the President.
- 2: Roll Call by the Secretary-Treasurer.
- 3: Reading of the minutes of the previous meeting, and their approval.
- 4: Treasury Report.
- 5: Reports of Committees.
- 6: Reports of Subsidiary Organizations.
- 7: Appointment of Committees.
- 8: Special Orders.
- 9: Unfinished Business and General Orders.
- 10: New Business.
- 11: Election (Annually).
- 12: Adjournment

Article 3. Voting

Section 1: No member shall be allowed to vote by proxy upon any matter at any meeting of the National Governing Board. A: The election for all officers shall be by ballot.

Section 2: Quorum. Eight members of the National Governing Board shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the National Governing Board. Majority members of the Board shall NOT constitute a quorum at any meeting.

Section 3. Plurality of Votes: At the Annual Election of officers there shall be three tellers appointed by the President whose duty it shall be to receive and count the ballots. The candidate receiving an excess of votes

(Plurality) over those for any other candidate shall be declared elected.

Article 4. Fiscal Year

Section 1: This shall be the period from the first meeting of the association, March 9, 1938, (when association was officially organized) to the next annual meeting in the first ~~annual~~ week of March in the following year, and in subsequent years on this basis.

Article 5. Grievances and Expulsion

Section 1: All grievances shall be turned over to the association President whoshall present same for settlement at any regular meeting of the National Governing Board.

Section 2: Any member, when taken into the Association is presumably taken in for life, although this shall under no circumstances be mentioned upon his certificate of membership of membership card. In other words, this is conditional life membership. For any action unbecoming or or working against the interests of the association he may be placed temporarily or permanently upon the Inactive list, or he may be expelled from the Association and disbarred from any participation and or privileges of ever joining again. And should these actions be taken by the Governing Board, ^{its} ~~their~~ action is final. This member forever loses his vote and membership upon any association matters and can never hold any office.

Section 3: *ACTIVITIES: Shall be at the direction of Governing Council. They shall become a part of the distribution program when duly presented and passed in customary manner at regular meetings of the Board and properly recorded in the Minutes. Direction of such activities shall be under the supervision of the Board unless otherwise designated.*

Prepared by Tom Whitland, Sec. 1938