

Sociologists for Women in Society in the South

Constitution and By Laws

ARTICLE I. STRUCTURE

Section 1. The name of this organization is Sociologists for Women in Society in the South (SWS-S).

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

Section 1. Purpose SWS-S is a feminist educational and scientific organization dedicated to the following:

- A. To educate and sensitize the sociological profession and the public to the social, political, and economic situation of women;
- B. To actively support and encourage professional opportunities for women in sociology;
- C. To work toward feminist social change;
- D. Focusing on the Southern region of the United States.

Section 2. Powers

The members of SWS-S either individually or collectively are empowered to implement the objectives of the organization. SWS-S shall work through or in conjunction with National SWS, the Southern Sociological Society, other professional associations, or by independent actions of its own, as appropriate and/or necessary.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Classes of Members

A. Regular Members

Regular members are members who do not self-identify as students or do not meet the criteria for student membership.

B. Student Members

Student members are those who self-identify as students and who are pursuing a degree from an institution of higher education in the year for which membership dues are paid.

Section 2. Qualifications/eligibility for Membership

Any person who accepts and supports the purpose of this organization is eligible for membership.

Section 3. Privileges of Membership

Members shall have the right to vote, to hold office and to chair committees, to receive all regular publications of SWS-S, to be included in electronic lists and forums run by the organization, to attend all membership and committee meetings, and to set dues and provide general direction to the organization in business meetings.

Section 4. Fees and Dues

Annual dues shall be determined by vote at the annual business meeting.

Section 5. Resignation

Any member in good standing may resign by submitting that resignation in writing to the Membership Chair/Treasurer.

Section 6. Non-Payment

If a member fails to pay dues, fees or assessments within six months from the date they become due, membership shall automatically terminate.

Section 7. Reinstatement

Any member having resigned from membership may be reinstated upon application to the Membership Chair/Treasurer.

Section 8. Voting

Members in good standing may vote. Voting takes place at the annual business meeting held in conjunction with the Southern Sociological Society meeting.

ARTICLE IV. STRUCTURE

Section 1. Officers The officers of the organization are:

A. General Officers

1. President
2. Vice President
3. Secretary
4. Membership Chair/Treasurer
5. Newsletter Editor
6. National SWS Liaison

B. Operating Officers

1. Listserv Keeper
2. Archivist
3. Website Manager

Section 2. Eligibility for Office

Officers must be in good standing. No person may hold more than one office at a time, nor may any person hold one office for more than two terms consecutively.

Section 3. Term of Office

A. General Officers

The term of office for all general officers shall be two years, with the exception of the National SWS Liaison, which shall be a one-year term. The President, Membership Chair/Treasurer, and Newsletter Editor shall be elected in even years; the Vice-President and Secretary shall be elected in odd years.

B. Appointed Officers

The President appoints officers. There is no limit on term of office, but the President may appoint a new Officer at any time.

Section 4. Duties and Powers

A. President

1. To represent the organization before the public, in relation to SSS and other organizations.
2. To preside as chairperson of meetings of the membership.
3. To coordinate the nomination and election of officers at the annual meeting.
4. To coordinate the work of the committees and to execute their directives.
5. To cooperate with other officers in formulating and implementing policy within the general framework laid down by the membership.
6. To cooperate with the other officers in drawing up agendas for membership meetings, and to have primary responsibilities for such agendas.
7. To give progress reports at meetings.
8. To perform any other duty or responsibility normally associated with office of President.

B. Vice-President

1. To assume the Presidency if a resignation occurs.
2. To assume the duties of the President if the President is unable to attend the annual meeting.
3. To cooperate with the President in formulating and implementing policy.
4. To organize SWS-S co-sponsored sessions at the annual SSS meeting.
5. To obtain and organize a table in the exhibition area and necessary meeting rooms at the SSS meeting
 - The table shall include membership forms, information about SWS-S co-sponsored sessions. The rooms shall serve as the location of the business meeting and any fundraising events, and social events.
6. To perform any other duties assigned by the President.

C. Secretary

1. To record, report, and distribute minutes of the meetings.
2. To provide officers and committee chairpersons with updated lists of names, addresses, and telephone numbers of officers, committee chairpersons, and committee members following elections.
3. To be responsible for the distribution of all SWS-S documents, reports, and correspondence.
4. To perform any other duties assigned by the President.

D. Membership Chair/Treasurer

1. To be responsible for the collection, safekeeping, and distribution of organization funds.
2. To prepare a written financial report to be made available at the annual meeting and published in the newsletter following the annual meeting.
3. To receive and deposit dues from members.
4. To maintain all membership records.
5. To be the Chair of the Membership Committee.
6. To organize and coordinate recruitment of new members.
7. To coordinate the annual fundraiser.
8. To perform any other duties assigned by the President.

E. Newsletter Editor

1. To edit and publish at least two issues of the newsletter per year.
2. To maintain liaison with officers and chairpersons of all committees for news.
3. To maintain liaison with similar organizations having their own newsletters by exchanging newsletters and reprinting useful information as it seems feasible.

F. National SWS Liaison

1. To maintain communication between SWS-S and National SWS.
2. To attend the winter meeting for SWS national and write a report for SWS-S.
3. To write reports of the activities of SWS-S for the SWS national newsletter.

G. Archivist

1. To be responsible for the collection and safekeeping of all SWS-S documents, reports, and correspondence.

H. Listserv Keeper

1. To be responsible for the operation of the SWS-S listserv.

I. Website Manager

1. To be responsible for the operation of the SWS-South website.

ARTICLE V. COMMITTEES

Section 1. There shall be the following committees:

A. Standing Committees

1. Awards
2. Vision
3. Membership

B. Ad hoc Committees

Ad hoc committees are to be appointed by the President with the approval of the other general officers for periods of one year. At the end of that period, their function shall be reviewed.

Section 2. Committee Chairpersons

The chairperson for each of the Standing Committees shall be elected by the membership, with the exception of the Membership Chair/Treasurer whose term of office is described in Article IV,

Section 3A, and shall serve a two-year term. Committee chairs are to prepare a report to be given at the annual meeting and published in the newsletter following the annual meeting.

Section 3. Committee Charge

A. Awards

1. To coordinate the process of securing nominations for and selection of winners of the SWS-S student and emerging scholar paper awards.

B. Vision

1. To coordinate and implement the community-engagement event at the annual meeting. This includes selecting the local organization with whom to work and executing the event.

C. Membership

1. To implement the Southern Hand Program and to actively recruit and retain members for the organization.

Section 4. Eligibility

Chairpersons must be members of SWS-S in good standing.

Section 5. Committee Membership

The elected chairperson shall solicit committee members from among SWS-S members in good standing, in the number necessary to easy, efficient operation of the committee. On all committees, special attention shall be given to ensure adequate representation of all status ranks from students through all academic and research positions.

ARTICLE VI. FINANCES

Section 1. The fiscal year shall begin April 1 and end March 31.

Section 2. Annual dues shall be set by the general membership.

Section 3. Annual dues shall be paid to the Membership Chair/Treasurer.

ARTICLE VII. ELECTIONS

Section 1. Timing

SWS-S elections must be held during the annual SWS-S meeting held in conjunction with annual SSS meeting.

Section 2. Procedure

The President shall conduct elections during the SWS-S annual meeting. Nominations may come from any of the membership, including self-nominations. Each nominee shall be announced, with a description of her/his qualifications for the position. A majority of the membership present at the annual SWS-S meeting shall be necessary for election to office or

committee chair, with the exception of the SWS National Liaison. The SWS National Liaison will be selected randomly from among those who were nominated.

ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Any member may propose amendments to the SWS-S Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 2. Proposed amendments shall be sent to the President and to the Newsletter Editor. Proposed amendments shall appear in the SWS-S newsletter prior to the annual meeting and shall be voted on at the annual meeting.

Section 3. A simple majority of voting members present at the SWS-S annual meeting shall be necessary to amend the Constitution and Bylaws.