

CONSTITUTION OF GEORGIA TEACHERS OF ENGLISH TO SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES

I. NAME

The name of this association shall be Georgia Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages. The association shall be an affiliate of TESOL, an international professional organization for those concerned with the teaching of English to speakers of other languages.

II. PURPOSE

The purposes of this non-profit organization are

To encourage professional development, participation and leadership within the state of Georgia;

To provide opportunity for study and research;

To work cooperatively toward the improvement of instruction in all programs which seek to provide students with an opportunity to acquire English language skills and proficiency.

To promote an understanding of the cultures of non-native speakers of English,

This association is organized exclusively for educational purposes, including the making of distributions to an organization that qualifies as exempt under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the association shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt from Federal Income Tax under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (or the corresponding provision of a future United States Internal Revenue Law).

Monies of the organization shall be disbursed only in the support of purposes of this organization and shall not be disbursed to any member of the organization for his or her own private gain. Monies may be disbursed only with the approval of the Executive Board and/or a majority of members in good standing attending a business meeting.

III. MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to anyone, without regard to race, creed, sex, religion, or national origins, who wishes to promote the purposes of this organization. All individual members in good standing shall be entitled to vote.

IV. MEETINGS

Georgia TESOL shall hold at least one general meeting a year for the total membership, at such time and place as the Executive Board shall determine, with part of the meeting devoted to the business of Georgia TESOL. Members shall be notified no less than thirty (30) days prior to all general meetings. The Executive Board shall hold at least one additional meeting each year. Special meetings of the general membership may be called by the Executive Board. Members shall be notified no less than thirty (30) days prior to a special meeting.

V. OFFICERS

The elected officers of this organization shall be President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Liaison Officers shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Executive Board. The term of office is from the close of one Annual Meeting until the close of the next Annual Meeting. The officers shall perform duties as prescribed in the Bylaws.

VI. EXECUTIVE BOARD

The executive Board shall consist of the elected officers, the immediate past president, and members elected at large for two years, who shall implement matters of policy as determined at the general meetings, and who may initiate action appropriate to that policy. All members of the Executive Board shall be members of TESOL.

VII. COMMITTEES

The standing committees shall be as follows: (1) Program Committee; (2) Membership Committee, (3) Publications Committee; (4) Professional Development Committee; and, (5) Socio-Political concerns committee. The Committees shall perform duties as prescribed in the Bylaws.

VIII. AMENDMENTS

Proposed amendments to this Constitution may be initiated by a majority of the members of the Executive Board or may be submitted to the President by petition, signed by at least 10% of the members in good standing.

Any such proposed amendment shall be distributed to all members at least thirty (30) days before the Annual Business Meeting or a special meeting called by the Executive Board. To become effective, the proposed amendment must be ratified by a two-thirds majority of the ballots cast, whether cast in person or by proxy, plus any mail ballots received prior to the date of the meeting.

IX. STANDARD AUTHORITY

Robert's Rules of Order Revised, latest edition, shall govern the Association in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with this Constitution and Bylaws.

X. EARNINGS

No part of the net earnings of this association shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributed to, its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the association 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 Article II hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the association shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the association shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provisions of these articles, the association shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt from Federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law).