

NORTHWEST INDIANA CHAPTER
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF FRENCH

CONSTITUTION

Article I: Name

The name of this organization shall be the Northwest Indiana Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of French.

Article II: Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be to serve the interests and needs of teachers of French and the teaching of French at all levels of instruction, in both public and private schools, to stimulate professional growth, and to foster interest in the French language, literature, and culture.

Article III: Membership

Membership in the Northwest Indiana Chapter shall be open, upon payment of dues, to teachers of French at all levels, to former teachers of French, administrators, students of French, and friends of the French language and culture.

Regular membership runs from January 1 to December 31. Student membership is on the academic year and runs from September 1 to August 31 of the following year.

The dues are such as the National Association imposes. The dues for regular members are payable in the fall of the year preceding the membership year. Members who have not paid their dues by December 31 are delinquent.

The Chapter dues are such as the chapter determines by majority vote at any regular meeting.

Article IV: Officers

1. The officers of the Northwest Indiana Chapter shall be a President, Vice President, Treasurer, and a Secretary. Only AATF members in good standing may be nominated and serve as officers. Officer duties shall include the following responsibilities, as well as any additional duties described in the officer duties addendum.

The duties of the President shall be, in addition to the usual ones of calling and presiding over meetings of the chapter, to approve all orders drawn against funds of the chapter, and to appoint the chairpersons of various committees and of the French Contest.

The term of office of the President shall be two years. He or she shall succeed to office automatically from the position of Vice President.

2. The Vice President shall preside over meetings and act in the place of the President in the absence of the latter. If the President becomes unable for any reason to complete the term, the Vice President shall succeed to the presidency and complete the President's term. Then s/he shall enter upon his/ her own regular term as President.

The term of office of the Vice President shall be two years.

3. A. The Treasurer should keep detailed financial accounts of receipts and disbursements, make a complete financial report at the spring meeting of the chapter and yearly to the national office. He/she will keep an up-to-date list of active members of the chapter from the chapter Reimbursement Reports received from national.

B. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of business meetings, make the necessary mailings to members, serve as custodian of the constitution and chapter records, and send a report of meetings to the National Bulletin as desired by the chapter.

C. The term of office of both the Treasurer and the Secretary shall be two years and these officers may be re-elected.

4. Each year in which there is to be an election, all members in current standing shall be eligible to send nominations to the Chapter Secretary or President. Nominees may also be proposed from the floor. The new officers shall enter upon their functions as of the moment their election is announced and the Secretary shall immediately certify the results of the elections to the National Office through the Regional Representative. Election shall be by a majority of those present at the spring meeting.

An absence of an officer for a period of three months or more from the area may cause his office to be considered vacant by the Executive Board.

If an office becomes vacant through death, resignation, or absence of the incumbent, the vacancy shall be filled for the remainder of the term by appointment of the Executive Board, except for the office of the President where succession is automatic.

Article V: Meetings

The Chapter shall have at least two meetings a year, one in the fall and the second in the spring. Other special meetings may be called by the President in consultation with the Executive Board.

Article VI: Executive Board

The Executive Board of the Chapter shall consist of the four elected officers and the immediate past-president. These five members may invite any chapter member to participate in their meetings and determine voting quality of the latter; and, all members of the chapter may attend its meetings. The Executive Board is authorized to conduct all important business between meetings and may be called into session or consulted at the initiative of the President. Its decisions must be submitted to the general membership at the next business meeting.

Article VII: Amendments

The Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any regular or special meeting, providing that notice announcing the exact nature and wording of the proposed amendment shall have been sent in writing to each member of the chapter at least one month in advance, along with the time and place of the meeting.

Article VIII: Applicability of National Constitution

All articles of the AATF National Constitution and by-laws apply to the Northwest Indiana Chapter and nothing in this chapter Constitution is to be considered in contradiction of the National Constitution.

Article IX: Dissolution

This Chapter may be dissolved by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at a regular or specially called meeting, or through the suspension of its charter by the national organization acting under the authority of National By-Law IV, 2 (c). In case of dissolution, all remaining funds in the chapter treasury and all chapter records shall be turned over to the National Executive Director of the AATF under the terms of the aforementioned By-Law.

Approved as revised at the Fall Business Meeting, September 15, 2007.