

American String Teachers Association,
CALIFORNIA CHAPTER, INC.
Constitution
As revised and proposed, 2007

ARTICLE I

SECTION I - Name

This association shall be known by the title the American String Teachers Association, California Chapter, Inc., and hereafter known as CAL-ASTA.

SECTION II - Purpose

The purpose of this non-profit Corporation shall be:

- (a) To establish the highest artistic and pedagogical standards in stringed instrument and orchestra teaching; i.e. the sponsoring of research and study of all phases of string and orchestra teaching and playing;
- (b) To promote the study of stringed instruments and development of orchestra programs at the elementary, secondary, and college levels, and in private studios;
- (c) To promote the highest standards in string performance solo, ensemble and orchestra performance;
- (d) To encourage composition, arrangement, and publication of representative string and orchestra music;
- (e) To publicize personal and social values gained by the performer and consumer of string and orchestra music;
- (f) To provide information about string and orchestra materials and services of benefit to public school and private teachers of stringed instruments and orchestra directors.

ARTICLE II

SECTION I - National Constitution

CAL-ASTA shall abide by the articles and by-laws and amendments of the constitution of the national organization, which is known as the American String Teachers Association.

ARTICLE III

SECTION I - State Organization

- (a) The business of CAL-ASTA shall be carried on by the officers, the Board of Directors, and the membership in good standing.
- (b) The legal fiscal year shall be from July 1 through June 30.

SECTION II - Elected Officers

- (a) The elected officers shall be: State President, State President-Elect, State Secretary and State Treasurer.

SECTION III - Terms of Office

- (a) The State President-Elect, the State Secretary, and the State Treasurer shall each serve for a term of two years.
- (b) The State President-Elect, upon completion of a two year term of office automatically becomes the State President for a term of two years.
- (c) The Immediate Past President shall continue in an ex-officio capacity as advisor to the Board of Directors for a term of two years.
- (d) In the event of a vacancy of any officer (other than that of President), the State President, with a majority consent of the Board of Directors, shall appoint an active member in good standing to finish the unexpired term of the preceding incumbent. In the event of vacancy of the office of State President, the State President-Elect shall assume the office and finish the unexpired term.

SECTION IV - Duties of the Officers

1. President: Schedules, announces, and presides over at least one meeting each year of the State Board of Directors; presides at all State Chapter meetings; maintains annual report of state activities; receives quarterly rebates from the National Executive Director and forwards these to the State Treasurer; attends the State Presidents' Council at national conventions or send a representative; fills appointive offices, selects chairpersons, and sets up committees as needed; authorizes elections and approves workshops that further the goals of the organization.
2. President-Elect: Assumes presidential duties in case of absence or disability of the President; attends State Board meetings; supports the State activities and functions; represents the State Unit at professional meetings when requested by the President.
3. Past-President: Serves as counsel to the State President; attends State Board meetings; represents the State Chapter at professional meetings when requested by the President.
4. Secretary: Takes minutes at State Board meetings and general membership meetings; submits copy of the official minutes to all State Board members; opportunity for additions and corrections shall be afforded to board members prior to publication of minutes in The Soundpost; sends information, reports and notices to State Officers; prepares and mails out election ballots as specified in the State Constitution and reports the results; prepares and publishes a biennial State Directory; maintains an up-to-date mailing list; sends rebate information to treasurer.
5. Treasurer: Establishes a State Chapter bank account; receives, deposits, disburses and accounts for all funds; keeps accurate records of income and expenditures; rebates quarterly to each active section one-half of the national rebate received for each section member; submits financial report to the Board of Directors at the close of each financial year; files IRS forms if required.

SECTION V - The State Board of Directors

The State Board of Directors shall consist of the State President, the State President-Elect, State Secretary, State Treasurer, immediate Past State President, Editor of The Soundpost, Historian, Student Representative, and the Section President of each active area Section and others who may be appointed by the President with the approval of a majority of the Board of Directors to fulfill specific functions deemed beneficial to the organization.

1. Editor: The Soundpost: Serves as editor of the State newsletter; seeks contributions of materials and information from the membership; is advised by the Board of Directors concerning general content and number of issues; lists current and future events of interest to membership; mails or arranges for mailing of newsletter.
2. Historian: Collects, classifies, organizes and cares for materials pertinent to past and current activities of the State Chapter.
3. Student Representative: Represents State student membership at State Board meetings; serves as liaison between the State Board of Directors and student chapters.

ARTICLE IV

SECTION I - State Administration

- (a) The State President shall be Chairman of the State Board of Directors.
- (b) The State Board of Directors shall meet at least once per year, or upon call of the State President.
- (c) Emergency decisions may be made by the State President after telephone discussion and approval by a majority of the State Board of Directors. Such action shall be ratified by the State Board of Directors at their next meeting and shall be recorded in the minutes.

SECTION II - Financial Operations

- (a) All expenditures shall be paid by the State Treasurer with approval as indicated.
- (b) Expenditures for the normal running of all officers, committees, or commissions shall be subject to approval of the State President.
- (c) Expenditures of money beyond the area of normal running expenses shall be approved by the State Board of Directors.

SECTION III - Election of Officers

- (a) Prior to February 1 in even-numbered years, the State President shall appoint a Nominating Committee of five members who shall designate a ballot of candidates for the offices to be vacated. Choices shall be submitted by March 1st. The State Secretary shall then prepare and mail out ballots with space provided for write-in candidates to the entire paid-up membership of the State Chapter no later than March 15. A ballot envelope which does not identify the voter must accompany each ballot. The membership shall be notified of the upcoming elections in a timely manner and invited to submit nominations to the Nominating Committee.
- (b) Ballots are to be returned to the State Secretary and counted within forty-five days after they were mailed. The ballots shall be counted by an Election Committee appointed by the State President. The Election Committee shall consist of no fewer than three CAL-ASTA members in good standing who are neither State Officers or candidates. The report of the count with the ballots shall then be sent to the State President for verification and approval. In the event of disapproval or disagreement, the State Board of Directors shall have final decision.
- (c) The State Secretary shall, upon approval, notify all candidates of the election results and advise the membership through the newsletter, The Soundpost. The new officers shall take office the first week in June at a combined meeting of outgoing and incoming officers, if possible.

ARTICLE V

SECTION I - Membership Classification

The members of CAL-ASTA shall be classified as being either Active, Dual, Full-time student, Retired (age sixty-two or over), School or Library, according to definition by the National Constitution and Executive Board of ASTA.

SECTION II - Dues

- (a) Dues are to be submitted to the national organization, ASTA, according to the membership classification and dues schedule designated by the National Executive Board of ASTA.
- (b) Membership in the California State Chapter and Geographical Sections is contingent upon membership in ASTA.

ARTICLE VI

SECTION I - Chapter Organization

- (a) The California State Chapter of CAL-ASTA shall be composed of Geographical Sections within the State. A Geographical Section shall consist of a group of ten or more members of CAL-ASTA who have voluntarily banded together because of their mutual interest in string instruments and whose group organization meets CAL-ASTA requirements.
- (b) In addition to the Geographical Sections, California Orchestra Directors Association, hereafter referred to as CODA, shall be constituted as a Special Section at Large.
- (c) Each Section shall elect a President, President-Elect, Secretary and Treasurer and such additional officers as the Section sees fit.

SECTION II - Rebates

- (a) The State Treasurers shall send quarterly membership reports and rebates (one-half the national rebate per member) to each qualifying section.
- (b) Rebates for the members of the CODA Section shall be sent to the Geographical Area Section in which members reside.
- (c) No Section shall qualify for dues rebates if on May 1st the Section membership is less than ten or if the Section has held fewer than two meetings within the preceding legal fiscal year or if the previous rebate check has not been cashed within ninety days of receipt.

SECTION III - Duties of Section Presidents

Preside at all section meetings; plan and organize programs for such meetings; oversee section activities; serve on the State Board of Directors; attend or send a representative to State Board of Directors meetings; inform the State President and State Treasurer concerning Section activities and financial condition by means of a semi-annual report submitted after June 30 and December 31 of each year; organize membership drives.

ARTICLE VII

SECTION I - Corporate Debts

The private property of individual members of this association shall not be liable for corporate debts.

ARTICLE VIII

SECTION I - Amendments

This Constitution may be amended by an affirmative vote of the members voting at a State Chapter election or by an approving vote of two-thirds of the eligible members voting by mail. Proposed amendments shall be mailed to voting members in good standing one month before the date that is set by the State Board for counting the ballots.

SECTION II - Standing Rules

The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order (latest revised edition) shall govern this Association in all cases to which they are applicable and where they are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Constitution.

ARTICLE IX

SECTION I - Tax Exempt Status

- (a) This Association is exempt from the payment of Federal Income Tax under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code.
- (b) This Association is exempt from State Franchise Tax under Section 23701-e of the California Revenue and Taxation Code.

– fine –