

BYLAWS
Association for the Study of Persianate Societies (ASPS)

Article I. Name

[Paragraph as amended in December 2000] The name of this organization shall be the Association for the Study of Persianate Societies (herewith referred to as the Association).

Article II. Objectives

The Association shall be a non-governmental, non-political, non-profit professional organization for researchers, scholars, academics, and all other persons interested in the culture and civilization of the Persian-speaking societies and related areas.

The objectives of the Association are as follows:

[Paragraph as amended in October 2012] a. to promote research in the social sciences and **humanities** in the broad sense of the terms, including but not limited to such disciplines as anthropology, economics, history, **art and literature**, linguistics, political science and sociology;

b. to create, develop and encourage scientific, cultural and educational exchange and communication, both at the international level and within the Persian-speaking societies;

c. to publicize and disseminate the results of research and activities of members of the Association in the Persian-speaking societies in order to promote mutual understanding, and enhance the level of civic consciousness and public culture;

d. to engage in external activities, including cooperation in a variety of ways with other research and cultural organizations with similar goals, the introduction of its members to exchange opportunities, the exploration of possibilities of initiation and participation in international cooperative research, and joint sponsorship of research and cultural projects.

The Association shall carry out these objectives through the publication of a Journal; the organization of scientific gatherings, workshops and conferences; facilitation of the publication of the members' works; and encouragement of academic exchange.

Article III. Membership

[Paragraph as amended in October 2012] Section 1. Types of Membership. There shall be three categories of full members: Honorary, Lifetime, Regular, and Student; one category of Founding Member; and one category of Institutional Member.

[Paragraph as amended in October 2012] a. Honorary Members. Honorary Members shall be limited to outstanding internationally-recognized scholars who have made major contributions to the study of Persian-speaking societies. Honorary Membership shall be bestowed by nomination of the Board of Directors. Each Honorary Member may retain that status until his or her resignation or death. Honorary Members shall be entitled to all rights and duties of Regular Members but shall not pay dues. There shall be a limited number of Honorary Members at any one time.

[Paragraph as amended in October 2012] b. Regular Members Regular Members shall be individuals interested in the study of Persian-speaking societies and who may meet such qualifications as are established by the Board of Directors. Annual dues as established by the Board must be paid to retain membership. The Board of Directors may set different membership dues for Regular Members from Western Regions and the Persianate Region.

c. Student Members. The Board of Directors may admit as Student Members registered full-time graduate and undergraduate students interested in Persian-speaking societies who may meet such qualifications as may be

established by the Board. Annual dues as established by the Board must be paid to retain membership.

d. Founding Members. Founding Members shall be individuals or organizations making a contribution of \$250 or more toward the founding of the Association. They shall have the same rights as Regular Members or Institutional Members for the first year without additional payment, and thereafter upon the payment of annual dues for either one of the above categories.

e. Institutional Members. The Board of Directors may admit as Institutional Members without the voting privilege academic or philanthropic institutions which meet such qualifications as may be established by the Board. Representatives of such institutions shall be entitled to attend meetings of the Association and shall receive all publications of the Association. Annual dues as established by the Board must be paid to retain membership.

[Paragraph as amended in October 2012] f. Lifetime Members. Lifetime Members shall be individuals contributing \$1500,00 or more for the privilege of becoming the members of Association for life. All rights and duties of Regular Members shall accrue to Lifetime members. The fees of Lifetime membership are subject to change pursuant to the decision of the Board of Directors, and will affect only those newly recruited Lifetime members who join following such decision.

Section 2. Standing of Members. Any member who is three months in arrears of annual dues shall be deemed not in good standing as defined by the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Resignation and Removal of Members. A member in any category of membership may be removed at any time by a vote of the majority of the membership upon the recommendation by the Board. Any member in any category may resign at any time.

Article IV. Meetings of the Association

Section 1. Annual or Biennial Meetings. Meetings shall be held annually or biennially at a time and place to be determined by the Board of Directors. The Board shall take into account the diversity of regions encompassed in the study of Persian-speaking societies and shall plan the location of the Meetings on a rotation basis insofar as possible.

Section 2. Business Meetings. Business Meetings open to members and guests of the Association shall be held at the time and place of the Annual or Biennial Meetings.

There shall be a quorum for the Business Meeting of at least 20 voting members of the Association in good standing. In the absence of a quorum, the Meeting may be held, but no votes may be taken.

Article V. Board of Directors.

Section 1. Responsibilities. [Paragraph as amended in November 2020] The affairs and property of the Association shall be managed by the Board of Directors. Directors will assist in organizing the biennial convention and/or serve on other committees and sub-committees as requested and assigned by the President. The Directors shall act only as a Board, and individual Directors shall have no power as such.

Section 2. Meetings and Action.

- a. Annual Meetings. There shall be at least one meeting of the Board annually.
- b. Special Meetings. Special meetings of the Board shall be called at any time by the President or upon the request of no less than one-half of the Board.
- c. Notice of Meetings. Notice of each meeting of the Board shall be served personally or by mail to each Director no less than two weeks before the meeting.
- d. Quorum. At all meetings of the Board, the presence of at least one-half of the Board shall be necessary

and sufficient to constitute a quorum.

e. Action Without Meeting. Any action required or permitted to be taken by the Board of Directors may be taken without a meeting of the Board if all members of the Board shall individually or collectively consent in writing to such action. Such written consent shall be filed with the minutes or proceedings of the Board. Such action by written consent shall have the same force and effect as a unanimous vote of such Directors.

[Paragraph as amended in October 2012 and again in October 2015, October 2016 and January 2018] Section 3. Composition of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall consist of a number of voting members: The President, President-Elect, Immediate Past-President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, eight at-large members elected by the Association membership, Directors of the Regional Councils, and four Ex-Officio members consisting of Newsletter Editor, CERF Director, JPS Editor, and JPS Associate Member.

[Paragraph as amended in October 2012 and again in October 2016, January 2018 and November 2020] Section 4. Election of At- Large Members of the Board. The eight at-large Members of the Board shall be elected by the members of the Association from among Regular Members by a plurality of the vote cast, for three-year staggered terms. Of the eight At-Large Members of the Board, one shall be a graduate student of good standing and another shall be an early-mid career scholar. One Board member shall be designated as responsible for coordinating social-media activities and outreach on behalf of the Association and collaboration with the Newsletter editor. Each elected board member shall continue in office until his or her successor shall have been duly elected and qualified, or until his or her earlier death, resignation or removal in accordance with these Bylaws. Any vacancy caused by failure to elect the full number of members or the death, resignation or removal of any member, shall be filled by the vote of a majority of the remaining members of the Board. Each board member's term of office begins on January 1 of the next calendar year following his or her election. Only Regular Members in good standing shall be eligible to serve on the Board of Directors.

Section 5. Directors of the Regional Councils. Directors of the Regional Councils are automatically included as members of the Board of Directors for the duration of their terms of office as Directors of the Regional Councils.

Section 6. Resignation of Directors. Any Director may resign at any time.

Section 7. Initial Board of Directors. The initial Board of Directors will consist of the six members of the task-force charged with preparing the constitution of the Association at the meeting in Washington on May 17, 1993 and enlarged subsequently. It will elect an Acting President and a Secretary-Treasurer at its first meeting.

Article VI. Officers

[Paragraph as amended in October 2012 and again in October 2015 and in October 2016] Section 1. Numbers of Officers. The Officers of the Association shall be a President, President-Elect, Vice-President, a Secretary and a Treasurer. No person shall hold more than one of the aforesaid offices at the same time.

[Paragraph as amended in October 2012 and again in October 2015, October 2016, and January 2018] Section 2. Election of Officers. The President shall be elected by the members for a three-year term from among any current or previous members of the Board of Directors, Editorial Board of the Journal of Persianate Societies, and members in good standing for three consecutive years. The Office of President cannot be held by the same person for consecutive terms. The in-coming president will serve as President-Elect for one year prior to taking office. The Vice-President shall be elected by the members for a three-year term from among any current or previous members of the Board of Directors. The Office of Vice-President cannot be held by the same person for consecutive terms, but a Past-Vice-President is eligible for reelection one more time. The Nominating Committee shall nominate two Regular Members for the Office of President, two Regular Members for the Office of Vice-President, two Regular Members each for the positions of Secretary and Treasurer, along with two Regular Members for each open position for Members of the Board. Additional nominations may be made by petition from the membership to the Nominating Committee. Any Regular Member may be nominated for any Office or for Member of the Board by a petition signed by twenty-five members in good standing, provided the petition is received by a date announced by the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee, with the assistance of the Board, shall conduct the ballot by email and/or online. Ballots shall be sent out in sufficient time so that they may reasonably be returned by a

deadline before each annual meeting of the Board. The Board shall appoint a committee to count the election ballots. Only the ballots of members in good standing shall be counted.

[Paragraph as amended in November 2002] A plurality of the votes cast shall be required for election. Any tie in the election shall be resolved by a majority vote of the Board.

In preparing the list of nominees, the Nominating Committee shall keep in mind the desirability of having representation on the Board of scholars representing interests in the various Persian-speaking societies, in the various disciplines prominent in the study of Persian-speaking societies, and the various regions in which scholars of Persian-speaking societies reside.

Vacancies of Officers may be filled by a majority vote of the Board.

Section 3. Duties of Officers.

a. President. The President shall preside over the Board and Business Meetings and shall be a member of the Board for the three years following his or her term in office. He or she shall be the chief executive officer of the Association and shall have general supervision of the affairs and property of the Association. When authorized by the Board, the President may sign and execute, in the name of the Association, contracts and other instruments, except in cases where the signing and execution thereof shall be expressly delegated by the Board to some other officer or agent of the Association.

[Paragraph as amended in October 2012 and November 2020] b. Vice-President. The Vice-President shall directly collaborate with the President of the Association in the general supervision of the affairs and property of the Association, on a regular basis. Additionally, he/she will assist the President with fundraising and the writing of grant applications. In the event of the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall preside over the Board and/or Business Meeting. When authorized by the President and, in the his/her absence, by the Board, the Vice-President may sign and execute, in the name of the Association, contracts and other instruments, except in cases where the signing and execution thereof shall be expressly delegated by the Board to some other officer or agent of the Association. He or she shall be responsible for co-organization of the biennial convention in collaboration with the Secretary and for overseeing efforts to identify and secure locations for future conventions.

[Paragraph added pursuant to amendments of October 2015] c. Secretary. The Secretary shall act as the executive officer of the Association in the management of its affairs, and shall keep minutes of board meetings. The Secretary shall act under the supervision of the President, first and foremost, and of the Board. He or she shall be responsible for the routine administration of the Association, (co-)organization of its biennial conventions and overseeing regular publication of its Newsletter.

[Paragraph as amended in October 2012] d. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall keep the membership rolls, collect the membership dues and prepare the annual tax reports. The Treasurer shall act under the supervision of the President, first and foremost, and of the Board, and be responsible for all funds of the Association and shall keep or cause to be kept and shall be responsible for the keeping of accurate and adequate records of the assets, liabilities, and transactions of the Association. In general, he or she shall perform all duties incident to the Office of Treasurer and such other duties as may be assigned to him or her by the Board.

Article VII. Committees

Section 1. Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall consist of five members appointed by the Board of Directors at its annual meeting in consultation with the Regional Councils. The Board shall keep in mind the desirability of having representation on the Nominating Committee of scholars from the various Persian-speaking societies, from the various regions in which scholars of Persian-speaking studies reside, and the various disciplines prominent in the study of Persian-speaking societies. The Nominating Committee shall nominate Regular Members as candidates for office as outlined in Article VI, Section 2.

Section 2. Other Committees. The Board may constitute such other committees as it deems appropriate. The Board shall enact rules and regulations for the operation of each committee. The names of the members of each

committee and their terms of office shall be made known to the members at least annually.

Article VIII. Regional Councils

There may be several Regional Councils, the number and membership of which shall be established by the Board of Directors. Regions to be represented by the Councils will include but are not limited to Afghanistan, Australia, Europe, the Indian subcontinent, Iran, Tajikistan, Japan and the United States. The Regional Councils shall perform such duties as are assigned to them by the Board of Directors. Each Regional Council shall be chaired by a Director elected directly by its membership for such term of office as is determined by the Board.

Article IX. Amendment of Bylaws.

Amendments to these Bylaws may be proposed by 1) The Board of Directors or 2) petitions signed by 50 Regular Members in good standing. Petitions must be received by the office of the Secretary-Treasurer of the Association not later than forty-five days prior to the Annual or Biennial Meetings. Amendments must be approved by two-thirds of the membership attending the Annual or Biennial Meeting after written notice of the proposed changes has been sent to the membership at least fifteen days before the meeting.