

# **CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION**

## **ARTICLE I. Name-Object**

Section 1. This association shall be known as the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union.

Section 2. Its aim shall be to encourage the study of birds in South Dakota and to promote the study of ornithology by more closely uniting the students of this branch of natural science.

## **ARTICLE II. Membership**

Section 1. Any person age 16 or older and sympathetic with the Union's objectives may become an active member of this Union.

Section 2. Any person who is a student is eligible to become a student member of this Union.

Section 3. Honorary members may be elected for their eminence in ornithology or ~~from among the members of the Union~~ for distinguished service in furthering the aims of the Union.

Section 4. Honorary membership shall commence in the calendar year following approval by a two-thirds vote of the members present at an annual business meeting and shall continue until the honorary member's death or resignation. Life membership shall commence from the payment of the specified dues and shall continue until death or resignation. All other categories of active membership shall comprise a calendar year upon payment of the specified dues. The categories of active membership shall include honorary member, life member, family life members (husband and wife), sustaining member, family members (husband and wife), regular member, and student members who are at least 16 years old.

Section 5. Active members may vote at annual meetings, hold office, and serve on committees.

Section 6. All members shall receive gratis one copy of periodicals which this Union may publish for distribution to its members.

Section 7. Except for the categories of honorary and life memberships, active membership shall terminate for nonpayment of annual dues.

## **ARTICLE III. Officers-directors**

Section 1. The officers of this Union shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, an Editor, and a Librarian, chosen from among the Directors. At the discretion of the Board of Directors, one person may hold the offices of Secretary and Treasurer, and one person may hold the offices of Editor and Librarian.

Section 2. The duties of the President shall be to preside at meetings of the Union and of the Board of Directors, to appoint committees, to call necessary meeting of the Directors, and to perform such other duties as customarily pertain to the office.

- Section 3. The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in the President's absence or incapacity, assist the President, and perform such other duties as are delegated by the President.
- Section 4. The Secretary shall keep a record of the meetings of the Union and of the Board of Directors, conduct the general correspondence of the Union, and perform such other duties as customarily pertain to the office.
- Section 5. The Treasurer shall collect dues, receive and have charge of all moneys of the Union, pay all bills that are the Union's legal obligation, and perform such other duties as customarily pertain to the office.
- Section 6. The Editor shall edit and superintend the printing of the Union's periodical publications.
- Section 7. The Librarian shall preserve the books, other publications, and unpublished documents possessed by the Union.
- Section 8. The duties of the Directors shall be to establish general policies of the Union, determine the place and date of the annual business meeting, provide for periodic audits of the Treasurer's records, fulfill other duties given to them by the Constitution and Bylaws, and perform such other duties as may be necessary for the furtherance of the Union's objectives. The Directors may act by correspondence upon any matters that properly come to their attention.

#### ARTICLE IV. Meetings

- Section 1. The annual business meeting of the Union shall be at such time and place as is selected by the Directors.
- Section 2. Such special meetings of the Union or of the Board of Directors as are necessary may be called by the President with the approval of a majority of the Directors.
- Section 3. The quorum for transaction of business at an annual business meeting of the Union shall be nine active members.
- Section 4. The quorum for transaction of business at a meeting of the Board of Directors shall be five Directors.

#### ARTICLE V. Elections

- Section 1. Directors shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Union by a majority vote of the active members present.
- Section 2. The term of office for elected Directors shall be three years and shall commence at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected. **Three** directors shall be elected annually for a term of three years. In addition to the **9** elected Directors, there shall be a category of directors composed of the past presidents of this Union. The term of office for the Past-President Directors shall commence upon completion of their terms as President ~~and upon expiration of their three-year terms as elected directors.~~ The term of office for a Past-President Director shall continue **for 5 years.** resignation from the position, or resignation from the Union by nonpayment of dues. The Past-President Directors shall have full voting privileges on the Board of Directors and may be elected to offices of this Union.



Section 3. Immediately following each annual meeting and election of Directors, the Directors shall meet and select the officers of the Union for the ensuing year from among the Directors as provided in Article III, Section 1.

Section 4. Nominations for elected Directors shall be made by a Nominating Committee of three members appointed by the President. Nominations for a Director may be made from the floor at the annual business meeting after the Nominating Committee has presented its slate of nominees. If there are more than five nominees for Directors, the voting shall be by secret ballot.

#### ARTICLE VI. Dues

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall determine the annual dues for the various categories of membership and the dues for life membership.

Section 2. Annual memberships shall be on the basis of a calendar year, with renewal memberships due on the first day of January.

#### ARTICLE VII. Amendment

Section 1. This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of active members present at an annual business meeting, provided that all members have been given a least 30 days' notice of the proposed amendment.

#### BYLAWS

Section 1. The officers and directors may be reimbursed for the actual amount expended by them in carrying out their necessary official duties.

Section 2. The Union encourages any person presenting a paper at a meeting to submit the paper to the Editor for possible publication or to submit a copy to the Librarian for the Union's archives.

Section 3. The order of business at the annual meeting shall be as follows: (1) reading of minutes for the previous meeting, (2) reports by officers, (3) reports by committees, (4) old business, (5) new business, (6) any other appropriate special business, (7) adjournment. Generally accepted parliamentary procedure shall prevail for all meetings.

Section 4. The Board of Directors shall determine the place of an annual meeting approximately twelve months in advance. The Directors, in concurrence with the host committee, shall determine the precise date of the annual meeting approximately six months in advance.

Section 5. Upon at least 30 days' notice to the members, special meetings of the Union as are necessary may be called by the President with the approval of a majority of the Board of Directors.

Section 6. The President shall appoint the Nominating Committee approximately six months in advance of the annual meeting at which the Nominating Committee shall submit its slate of nominees for Directors. An incumbent elected Director who has not attended at least three director's meetings\* during his or her previous three-year term of office shall not be eligible for reelection as a Director unless a majority of the Board of Directors identifies acceptable extenuating circumstances for the nonattendance. \*(in person or virtual)

Section 7. The Bylaws of the Union may be amended by a vote of a majority of the members present at an annual business meeting, provided that the members have been given at least 30 days' notice of the proposed amendment.

Section 8. At the time of offering an amendment to the Constitution or Bylaws of the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union, the member proposing the amendment must submit to the Secretary a written copy of the proposed amendment with appropriate reference to the Article and/or Section and with appropriate wording for the proposed amendment.

*This revised Constitution and Bylaws of the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union was adopted at the Union's annual business meeting, 27 September 1980, at Brookings, South Dakota. Section 8 was adopted as an amendment to the Bylaws at the Union's annual business meeting, 12 October 1985, at Pierre, South Dakota. Revisions to Article II, Sections 2 and 4 were adopted at the Union's annual business meeting 28 October 2011, in Brookings, South Dakota.*

This revised Constitution and Bylaws, Article II section 3, Article V section 2 and Bylaws section 6 of the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union was adopted at the Union's Fall meeting on 28 September, 2024 at Spearfish S.D. **Revisions are in red.**