

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE: Recognizing that the true merit of a profession is determined by the value of its service to society, the MAINE SOCIETY OF LAND SURVEYORS does hereby dedicate itself to the improvement and enrichment of the profession of Land Surveying in order that it may serve the welfare of society, community, and State.

ARTICLE I: Name:

The name of the organization shall be:

MAINE SOCIETY OF LAND SURVEYORS

It shall hereinafter be called the Society.

ARTICLE II: Objectives:

The objectives of the Society are as follows:

Section 1. The general recognition and acceptance of the practice of land surveying as a profession separate and distinct from, and in no way subordinate to, any other profession.

Section 2. The establishment and maintenance throughout the State of Maine of uniformly high professional standards of work and ethics in the practice of land surveying for the greater protection of the public.

Section 3. To contribute to public education in the use of surveys and maps to encourage the establishment and support of surveying and mapping programs.

Section 4. To foster and support legislation generally in concordance with the objectives of the Society.

ARTICLE III: Membership.

There shall be ten grades of membership in this Society. The specifications for these grades are in the first ten sections of this Article.

Section 1. Regular Member:

Persons who are Professional Land Surveyors in the State of Maine at the time they are accepted for membership in this Society, or persons who become Professional Land Surveyors in Maine while being associate or student members of this Society, shall be classified as regular members of this Society, beginning on the date of their acceptance or licensing, respectively.

Section 2. Retired Member:

A person who has been a regular, or an individual sustaining member, for five or more years immediately prior to retirement, shall be eligible for classification as a retired member upon reaching age 65, or upon the misfortune of physical disability which prevents active earning of normal income as a surveyor. Retired members shall have rights and obligations equal to those of regular members except for a reduced level of dues.

Section 3. Associate Member:

Any person registered or licensed to practice in the profession of land surveying in jurisdictions other than the State of Maine; or any person who has qualified as a Maine Land Surveyor-in-Training; or any person who is professionally concerned in land surveying may apply for the grade of associate member in the Society.

Section 4. Student Member:

Any person enrolled at a University or Technical Institution as a full-time student and is fulfilling the education requirements of the Maine State Board of Professional Land Surveyors may apply for the grade of Student member in the Society.

Section 5. Life Member:

A regular member who, by reason of continuous and outstanding devotion to the Society and the profession of land surveying, is found deserving by the Membership Committee may, with the unanimous concurrence of the Executive Committee, be declared a Life member of the Society.

Section 6. Sustaining Member:

A corporation, partnership, proprietorship, or individual who, by interest in the Land Surveying profession, is desirous of supporting the objectives of the Society, may apply for the grade of Sustaining member in the Society.

Section 7. Honorary Member:

An individual who has directly or indirectly shown outstanding and continuous support of the objectives of the Society, may, upon unanimous vote of the Executive Committee, be declared an Honorary member of the Society.

Section 8. Out-of-State Member:

An out-of-state member shall meet the following requirements:

- a) The person must be a licensed professional surveyor in Maine.
- b) The person must be a member of his home state surveyors association.
- c) The person's home state surveyors association must offer reciprocal arrangement to MSLS members.

Out-of-state members will have no voting privileges and cannot hold office in MSLS. Out-of-state members will receive all publications and the same discount as regular members of MSLS on publications and seminars. The dues for out-of-state members will be 50% of the dues for regular MSLS members.

Section 9. Bench Mark:

An individual, corporation, partnership, proprietorship, or other entity who, by interest in the Land Surveying profession, is desirous of supporting the educational efforts of the Society may apply for this grade. Such members will receive special recognition of their support. Individual Bench Mark members may vote and hold office.

Section 10. Foresight:

An individual, corporation, partnership, proprietorship, or other entity who, by interest in the Land Surveying profession, is desirous of supporting the educational efforts of the Society may apply for this grade. Foresight members may vote and hold office. Such members will receive special recognition of their support and will receive free admission to all Society functions for the year. An individual Foresight member can designate an alternate to use the free function admission privilege.

Section 11. Applications:

Unless otherwise provided by this Article, application for grades of membership shall be made on a form prescribed by the Membership Committee.

Section 12. Entrance Fees:

Applications for membership grades of regular member, associate member and out-of-state member shall be accompanied by an entrance fee as prescribed by Article VII, Section 5 of the By-laws of the Society. Transfer of membership grades shall not require an entrance fee.

Section 13. Membership Status:

With the exception of Life members and Honorary members, active status of all grades of membership shall be determined by payment of annual dues and special assessments in an amount to be determined under the provisions of Article VII, Section 5 of the By-laws of the Society. Annual dues delinquent more than ninety (90) days after receipt of the annual dues notice shall render a membership inactive.

Section 14. Admission:

Unless otherwise provided by this Article, approval of applications shall be made by a majority vote of the Executive Committee upon a favorable recommendation of the Membership Committee.

Section 15. Voting:

The voting privilege of the Society may be exercised only by those Life, Regular, Retired, Associate, individual Bench Mark, individual Foresight and Sustaining members who have maintained active status as defined by this Article. For the purposes of voting, a member may hold only one membership grade.

Section 16. Lapsed Membership; Expulsion:

Inactive membership for a period of one calendar year shall automatically revoke membership in the Society. A member of any grade may be expelled from the Society by a two-thirds vote of the entire Executive Committee for the willful disregard of the Society's principles and purposes or for conduct detrimental to the Society's welfare, or for the conviction of a felony, or upon revocation or suspension of the member's license to practice land surveying. Any vote for the expulsion of a member of the Society shall be preceded by a written notice to that member appraising him/her of the impending vote, together with a notification that he/she shall have a right to a hearing before the Executive Committee prior to any action affecting his/her membership.

Section 17. Reinstatement:

Lapsed members requesting re-admission shall require application under the provisions of this Article. Applications for re-admission shall be accompanied by an entrance fee and the current annual dues for the membership grade desired.

ARTICLE IV: Local Chapters

Section 1. Organization:

A local Chapter of the Society may be organized on petition to the Executive Committee signed by no fewer than ten (10) voting members of the Society.

Section 2. Affiliation:

Affiliation of the Chapter with the Society shall be under the terms and conditions of the Articles of Affiliation adopted by the membership of the Society and executed by the authorized members of the Local Chapter and the President and Secretary of the Society.

Section 3. Operation:

All matters relating to the operation, business and membership of local chapters, except as otherwise provided by the Articles of Affiliation, shall be governed by the Chapter membership.

Section 4. Representation:

One (1) delegate from each local chapter, eligible under the Articles of Affiliation and serving at the pleasure of Chapter membership, shall become a Director of the Board of Directors of the Maine Society of Land Surveyors.

ARTICLE V: Officers and Directors

Section 1. The officers of the Society shall consist of a President, a Vice President, a Secretary and a Treasurer. The Board of Directors shall consist of two (2) at-large Directors and one (1) director from Local Chapters organized in accordance with Article IV, and a Governor from M.S.L.S. to the National Society of Professional Surveyors.

Section 2. Terms of Officers and Directors:

Except as otherwise provided by this section, the term of each duly elected officer shall be one (1) year, which term shall commence at the close of business of each annual meeting. The President and Vice President shall not be eligible for election to more than two (2) consecutive terms. The M.S.L.S. Governor to the National Society of Professional Surveyors shall be elected to a term of three (3) years and shall not be eligible for election to more than two (2) consecutive terms. There shall be no restriction as to the re-election of other Officers or Directors. The at-large Directors shall be elected for terms of two years, one being elected each year. A vacancy in the office of President shall be filled by the Vice President. A vacancy in the office of Vice President shall be filled by an election of the Executive

Committee of one of its members. In the case of disability, removal from the State, or neglect in the performance of his/her duty by any officer or director, the Executive Committee, by a two-thirds majority vote, may declare the office or directorship vacant. Vacancies, actual or declared, shall be filled for the unexpired term by a majority vote of the Executive Committee at a meeting at such time and place as may be determined by them. Local chapters shall have complete autonomy in all matters relative to their delegates' terms of office and in all matters relative to appointments for unexpired terms or declared vacancies.

Section 3. Eligibility:

To be eligible for nomination or election as an officer or at-large director of the Society, an individual must be eligible to vote under the provisions of Article III of this Constitution and must have maintained active membership status for at least one year prior to nomination. To be eligible for nomination, election or appointment to the position of M.S.L.S. Governor to the National Society of Professional Surveyors an individual must meet the standards listed above and have maintained active membership status in said National Society of Professional Surveyors for at least one year prior to nomination, election, or appointment. To be eligible for nomination or election as a director from a local Chapter, an individual must be eligible to vote under the provisions of Article III of this Constitution.

ARTICLE VI: Administration.

Section 1. Executive Committee:

The management of the Society's business and fiscal affairs shall be vested in the Executive Committee, restricted in its actions only by the Constitution and By-laws of the Society. The Executive Committee shall be responsible to the membership for its acts and shall fully report the same at all general membership meetings.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall be constituted as follows: the President shall hold the Chair; the Vice President shall hold the Vice-Chair; the Secretary shall be the Secretary; the Treasurer; the immediate past president; and the Board of Directors of the Society. A vacancy on the Committee by the immediate Past President shall be filled by the next immediate Past President.

Section 3. The Executive Committee may hire administrative personnel for the purpose of assisting in the execution of the administrative affairs of the Executive Committee, Standing Committees, and Ad Hoc Committees. The duties and the amount and type of compensation shall be determined by the Executive Committee which shall also periodically review both the position and the individual to assure that the needs of the Society are being properly addressed. The administrative personnel may be voting members of the Society but shall not hold a voting position on any committee.

ARTICLE VII. Meetings.

Section 1. The Society shall hold at least one general membership meeting each year which shall be known as the Annual Meeting. It shall be held at such time and place as may be determined by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee, on its own motion, may call and hold such additional meetings of the Society as it may deem necessary.

Section 2. Special meetings of the Society shall be called by the Executive Committee or the President at the written request of twenty-five percent of the voting members of the Society. The request for such meeting shall state specifically the purpose therefore. The notice for such a meeting shall be issued to all members at least thirty (30) days in advance of the proposed meeting date and shall state the purpose thereof, and no other business shall be taken up at such meeting. At special meetings, a majority of the voting members, in person or by proxy, shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE VIII: Amendments.

Section 1. Amendments to the Constitution may be initiated by: a majority vote on a written motion of the total membership of the Executive Committee; a majority vote on a written motion of the members present at a general membership meeting; or a petition containing the proposed amendment signed by twenty-five members of the Society and presented to the Executive Committee.

Section 2. A proposed amendment shall be submitted to the membership of the Society, by mail ballot, within thirty (30) days of initiation of the amendment process.

Section 3. The proposed amendment shall become a part of the Constitution and supersede any other part preceding, with which it is in conflict, if a two-thirds majority of the votes cast by eligible members are in favor of adoption.

Section 4. Unless otherwise provided, the amendment shall become effective as of the date that the performance of all requisites of amending have been certified to by the Executive Committee.