

CONSTITUTION of The Florida Chapter of the
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF FRENCH

Mission statement

The mission of the American Association of Teachers of French is “to represent the French language in North America and to encourage the dissemination, both in the schools and in the general public, of knowledge concerning all aspects of the culture and civilization of France and the French-speaking world. The Association shall by all means at its disposal support projects destined to advance the French language and literature. It encourages reciprocal communication between all levels of the teaching of French in North America.” (Constitution of the AATF, <http://aatf.utsa.edu/hq/constitut.htm>). The role of the Florida Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of French is to assist the AATF in the fulfillment of its goals at the level of the state, or, in concert with the national association, at the level of the nation, and to organize activities and formulate policies which will facilitate the academic or cultural mission of its members. With the above objectives in mind, the members of the association have adopted the following constitution:

ARTICLE I. Name of the Association – Geographic Delineation

Section 1. The name of the organization shall be the Florida Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of French, hereinafter referred to as the Chapter.

Section 2. The name of the Chapter shall never be the object of an amendment unless, by majority vote of its members.

ARTICLE II. Rights of Membership – Membership Fees

Section 1. All members of the Chapter must be members in good standing of the national association.

Section 2. Membership in the Chapter shall be divided into three categories:

- a) active membership;
- b) emeritus membership;
- c) student membership.

Section 3. Active membership: any person engaged in the teaching of the French language or professionally involved in the teaching of the literature or the culture of a French-speaking nation or a Francophile may become an active member of this chapter.

Section 4. Emeritus membership: emeritus membership may be conferred upon any member who:

- a) has received emeritus status by the national association;
- b) has retired from active teaching;
- c) has been a member of the AATF for at least ten consecutive years; **and**
- d) is a member in good standing of the Chapter when applying. Emeritus members are considered full-fledged members of the AATF Chapter and enjoy all the benefits of regular membership.

Section 5. Student membership: student membership shall be granted if one: a) is enrolled in courses leading to a degree in French; b) is carrying less than a full-time teaching-load; c) carries a title lower than “instructor” **and who is a teaching assistant or student adjunct.**

Student members pay half the annual dues for a regular member and are considered full-fledged members of the Chapter.

Section 6. Each member in good standing has the right to vote at meetings of the Chapter and to participate in the programs on an equal basis with other members.

Section 7. Chapter membership fees will be assessed annually and will run annually from January to January. Chapter fees are in addition to the national dues and are presently \$10.00. Chapter fees may be increased by a majority vote of the membership.

ARTICLE III. The Executive Board – Eligibility

Section 1. The Chapter shall be administered by an Executive Board, composed of the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary/Treasurer, **the Past President**, the Editor of *Le Bulletin Français* (the Chapter's newsletter), the Director of the National French Contest, and appointed Members-at-Large.

Section 2. The President and the Vice-President shall be elected for a term of two (2) years, which may be renewable.

Section 3. The Secretary and/or the Treasurer, **and the** Director of the French contest and the Editor of *Le Bulletin Français* shall be selected by the President for a term of two (2) years, renewable at the President's discretion.

Section 4. Appointed Members-at-Large serve a one (1) year term, which may be renewable.

Section 5. Nomination: Any member may nominate another active member for the offices of President and Vice-Presidents. **The Past-President is an appointed member-at-Large.**

Section 6. Election: the slate of candidates for office on the Executive Board shall be presented and voted upon at the annual business meeting of the Chapter, generally held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Florida Foreign Language Association (FFLA).

ARTICLE IV. Duties of the Executive Board

Section 1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Chapter. S/he shall appoint the director of the AATF National French Contest, members of all special committees, and the delegates to the national convention of the AATF. The President may receive and process applications for AATF Summer Scholarship, rank them, and send them to the Regional Representative. The President may convoke or poll the Executive Board as needed. It is the duty of the President to see that the other officers of the Chapter carry out their duties in a timely fashion, and in the case of resignation or failure of an officer or Executive Board member to perform his functions, the President of the Chapter shall appoint a replacement to fill out the term of office in question. The President shall assist the Vice-Presidents in planning the program of the meetings of the Chapter.

Section 2. The Vice-President: S/he shall act as an advisor to the President. It shall be the duty of the Vice-President to plan the programs for the meetings of the Chapter. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall preside at the meetings of the Chapter. The Vice-President shall assume the duties and functions of the President if the latter is unable or unwilling to perform his duties.

a. S/he shall act as an advisor to the President. It shall be the duty of the Vice-Presidents to plan the programs for the meetings of the Chapter. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall preside at the meetings of the Chapter. The Vice-President shall assume the duties and functions of the President if the latter is unable or unwilling to perform his duties.

b. The Vice Presidency shall be divided into Vice Presidents by Region beginning at the October 2010 Board Meeting. A Vice President for South Florida and a Vice President for Central Florida shall initially be established. Additional Vice Presidencies may be established by the Board by a 2/3 vote.

Section 3. The Secretary/Treasurer: S/he shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the chapter and send an account to *Le Bulletin Français* to be published in the next issue. S/he shall maintain liaison with National Headquarters and regional representatives by reporting the results of chapter elections. As the Treasurer, s/he shall have charge of all payments and records. Each year she shall present annual reports on the finances of the Chapter. S/he shall also report yearly interest to National Headquarters. S/he shall process memberships and submit membership reports to the National Headquarters, to the Executive Board, and to the members at the annual meeting. S/he shall recruit new members when possible and encourage former members to renew membership. **The Executive Director shall handle Chapter mailings to local members.**

Section 4. The Executive Board shall determine the general policy of the Chapter and decide upon all matters not within the purview of this Constitution. It shall be the responsibility of the Executive Board to establish ways of implementing the aims and means of developing the welfare of the Chapter. In instances when a special meeting of

the Chapter is not deemed feasible or necessary, the President may call a meeting of the Executive Board to deal with pressing matters affecting the Chapter.

Section 5. The Editor of *Le Bulletin Français*, under the supervision of the President, shall ensure the publication of *Le Bulletin Français* and of fliers announcing various chapter events, and determine, in consultation with the Board, the number of yearly issues and the list of recipients of *Le Bulletin Français*. The Editor shall serve on the Executive Board. All chapter-sponsored events must be publicized either in *Le Bulletin Français*, in fliers specifically designed for the occasion, and/or on the chapter's website.

Section 6. The Director of the National French Contest: s/he shall be responsible for all aspects of the development, publicity, and administration of the annual association contest in conformity with policies and practices as established by the National Contest Director. S/he shall report annually on the results of the contest and present a financial statement to the Board.

ARTICLE V. Meeting of the Chapter

Section 1. The Chapter shall have at least one annual meeting, which shall be held at the same time and at the same place as that of the FFLA Conference.

ARTICLE VI. Finances and Compensation

Section 1. The President shall serve as co-signer with the Treasurer on any bank accounts maintained by the Florida Chapter of AATF. **Should either the President or Treasurer not be available to co-sign, the Vice-President may do so. The Treasurer shall serve as co-signer for the accounts maintained by the Director of the National French Contest.**

Section 2. Investment of available current funds in the checking account may be made by the Treasurer with written approval by the President or Vice-President.

Section 3. **The Executive Board will budget up to \$2,500 per year to support its appointed delegates to the National AATF Conference. Each delegate will receive a minimum of \$300 compensation up to the amount of \$1,000 compensation.**

ARTICLE VII. Amendments

Section 1. The present Constitution may be amended at any annual meeting, provided that copies of such amendments are distributed to members or posted on the chapter's web site one month before the Chapter's meeting.

Section 2. A proposed amendment shall pass if it receives an affirmative vote from the majority of the members present at the meeting.

ARTICLE VIII. Ratification

Section 1. The present Constitution shall become effective upon ratification by the majority of the members present at the annual meeting.

Section 2. Ratification of this Constitution implies acceptance and recognition that all articles of the Constitution of the National Association shall apply to the Chapter.

ARTICLE IX. Dissolution

Section 1. The Florida 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 chapter by the national organization acting under the authority of Nation 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 AATF Treasurer under the terms of the aforementioned By-Law.